

Limerick Chronicle



YOUR PERFECT WEDDING

SEE OUR MUST READ GUIDE FOR THOSE SAYING 'I DO' IN 2018 **PAGES 19-54**



NEW 96 BED UHL UNIT LEFT IN LIMBO

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MINISTER for Health Simon Harris was unable to confirm if University Hospital Limerick will have its crucial, extra 96 beds included in the Government's 10-year capital plan. For more than a year, the UL Hospitals Group has sought funds from the Government to deliver the proposed acute bed block in order to alleviate UHL's chronic overcrowding crisis.

There were 62 patients treated on emergency department trolleys and

on extra trolleys or beds in the wards at UHL on Monday – the worst in the country, daily figures show.

UHL had 1,003 patients on trolleys in January, which was the highest trolley rate in the country during the "worst ever" month for overcrowding, the INMO said.

So far, approximately €1m has been set aside for the first stage.

But just days before the announcement of masterplan for the next decade, the Minister remained tight-lipped about whether it will be good news day for UHL this Friday.

→ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



Pancake paradise before Lent begins

Absolute hotel deputy general manager Steve Thornton and head chef Dermot Clancy with some choice-looking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday

Health MINISTER OPENS NEW CITY CLINIC



PAGE 4

Environment LIMERICK'S FUTURE CITY AWARD NOD



PAGE 6



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Since 1768

The Limerick Chronicle has the proud distinction of being Ireland's oldest newspaper and has been published continuously since 1768, more than 120 years before its sister paper the Limerick Leader first appeared in 1889. For many years the two titles were rivals but the Chronicle was bought by the Limerick Leader in the 1950s, since when they have been part of the same newspaper 'stable', and brought to you by the same team of award-winning journalists. The Chronicle shares its sister paper's highly popular website **www.limerickleader.ie**

WEATHER

Check updates on limerickleader.ie



TODAY
PARTLY SUNNY,
SHOWERS
AROUND WITH A
HIGH OF 6°C



TOMORROW
CLOUDY WITH A
LITTLE RAIN BUT
MUCH Milder
WITH 11°C PEAK



THURSDAY
A COUPLE OF
SHOWERS,
CLEARING AND 7
°C HIGH

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Trash to treasure: students vie for national crown with fashion creations

Lilly O'Byrne, a fourth year student from Colaiste Iosef, Kilmallock, wearing Stralusion, at the launch of the Junk Kouture competition. Now in its eighth year, Junk Kouture is Ireland's leading fashion and art competition for secondary schools and challenges students to create unique, original and innovative outfits from recycled materials and junk. Vote for your favourite creations online at www.junkkouture.com

PICTURE: SEAN CURTIN

Limerick Chronicle

YOUR LOCAL NEWS - ONLINE

The website for the Chronicle's sister paper, www.limerickleader.ie provides the most comprehensive and up to date news and sports service for the people of Limerick, at home and abroad, seven days a week. Log on for the latest developments brought to you by our unrivalled team.

INSIDE YOUR CHRONICLE

Anger as weir wall knocked



City residents have expressed anger over Limerick City and County Council's decision to recently knock the Thomondgate weir wall, according to one local councillor. See page 9

NEWS	1-10
OUT&ABOUT	12
ENTS	14
MEGHANN MIX	18
WEDDING SPECIAL	19-54
FASHION&HEALTH	55-61
I LOVE LIMERICK	62-63
MOTORS	64-66
CLASSIFIEDS	67-68
SPORT	69-71



Man About Town, 58-59

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

@ELangfordMusic
 I feel totally undeserving but *so* delighted to have been awarded Limerick Person of the Month for January. It's really nice feeling the support of your hometown behind you like a giant warm snuggly hug, MMMM-mm.



We want to hear your news and views @limerick_leader

@Rubberbandits
 If a Cork Person says Yurt, they must never make knife Jokes about limerick. Similarly, we will stop calling ye arrogant while in use of the word Langer.

@JanOSullivanTD
 Just finished fascinating tour of @NBCUniversal set of Nightflyers in @TroyStudios in Limerick, lots of locals working and training on set, costumes, crew etc looking forward to series!

Press Council of Ireland

The policy of the Limerick Leader is to provide our readers with a news and information service that is fair, accurate and balanced. This newspaper adheres to the Code of Practice set out by the Press Council of Ireland and is committed to the highest standards of reporting. If we make a mistake, we will endeavour to correct it at the earliest opportunity. In such instances, please write to the editor at 54 O'Connell Street, Limerick, or email editor@limerickleader.ie Alternatively you may contact the Press Council of Ireland at 1-3 Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 648 9130. Email: info@presscouncil.ie



NEWS

AWARDS: DEPUTY'S CAREER TO BE CELEBRATED

Noonan to get lifetime honour

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FORMER Minister for Finance Michael Noonan will be honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Limerick Person of the Year Awards 2017 this Thursday.

The political life of the Limerick city TD who served as minister for finance from 2011 until 2017 will be celebrated at a gala awards lunch in the Clayton hotel.

Deputy Noonan will be introduced to guests at the awards by his good friend Tim O'Connor.

Tim, a native of Killeedy, has had a distinguished career as a diplomat and public servant at national and international level and has also made a valued contribution to his native Limerick.

Deputy Noonan was first elected to the Dáil in 1981 and has held a number of senior cabinet positions including leader of Fine Gael between February 2001 and May 2002.

He will be joined by a number of close family and friends at the awards.

The recipient of the Limerick Person of the Year 2017



Deputy Michael Noonan will be honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Clayton Hotel this Thursday

award will also be revealed this Thursday.

There are 12 outstanding candidates for the prestigious award.

This year's 12 monthly award recipients cover a broad spectrum of accomplishments, ranging from excellence on the sporting field, to community endeavours which make a positive impact on local society, to those who make an invaluable contribution to policing, business, and entertainment in the Mid-West region.

Eugene Phelan, managing editor of the Limerick

Leader said that the annual ceremony is an opportunity to recognise the unsung heroes from the city and county, who work for the greater good of Limerick.

"Each of them are, in their own unique way, a shining example of what the true spirit of Limerick is all about."

The awards ceremony will be emceed by RTE's Petula Martyn and Lorcan Murray.

The awards are proudly sponsored each year by the Limerick Leader, media agency Southern and the Clayton Hotel.

D-day looms for 96-bed decision

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Speaking before the launch of the Barrack View primary healthcare centre this Monday afternoon, Minister Harris said: "You will understand that I will be in awful big trouble if I start reading out what is or isn't in the plan. But let me say this, I know the people of the Mid-West and the people of Limerick have been promised additional hospital beds for many, many years. In fact, they were promised that when various reconfigura-

tions were put in place that the beds would come.

"The reconfiguration went ahead, the beds never came. I think that it's absolutely vital that we show good faith here and that we deliver the beds. I still do not understand how Governments of the past decided to reduce bed capacity in this region. I am determined to increase it. The 96-bed project is a really important development for Limerick, and I am very hopeful that we will be able to deliver good news in relation to that," he said.

The Minister told reporters that even if the 96 beds were sanctioned, "it would take some time to put them in place. That's why I have asked the HSE to look at what interim measures we could do, because I think there are interim measures that we could do."

Minister Harris said the new emergency department, which he launched in June last, has "definitely improved the working environment for staff in Limerick and also the environment for patients. It has provided single rooms and isolation facilities that, quite frankly, weren't there when I visited the old ED in Limerick. So I am delighted that we were able to invest in this, but there is clearly a need for more beds in the Mid-West region".



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NEWS

BARRACK VIEW: HARRIS SAYS THERE WILL BE BETTER SERVICES 'CLOSE TO HOME'

New care centre 'another milestone' for Mid-West

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THE MINISTER for Health Simon Harris has said that the new state-of-the-art healthcare centre in the city centre will improve locals' access to "better care, close to home".

This Monday afternoon, Minister Harris welcomed the opening of the Barrack View primary healthcare centre on Lord Edward Street, following a multi-million investment from the international banking sector.

The new two-storey complex will officially open its doors next Monday, serving more than 10,000 people in the city.

Barrack View is one of 14 new complexes nationwide, with €70m being provided by the European Investment Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, and Talanx Asset Management.

Speaking at the launch this week, Minister Harris said that it was a "pleasure" to open the new facility.

"Primary care is at the heart of what we do in the Health Service. Facilities, like this one here in Limerick, ensure that we can deliver more health care in the community, so that people can access better care, close to home. This shift towards primary care will help keep



Barrack View Primary Healthcare Centre on Lord Edward Street will open to the public on next Monday February 19

people well and minimise the number of patients being admitted to our hospitals.

"This Government has invested significantly in recent times in our primary care infrastructure and we now have 110 modern, well equipped primary care

centres. These centres allow our primary care teams and GPs to be located together, which means the delivery of a wider range of integrated primary care services," he stated.

HSE services provided at the new centre include public health nursing,

speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology services, and dietetic services. Dr Gerard O'Brien will also be stationed at the clinic as resident GP.

HSE Mid-West's chief officer, Bernard Gloster said

that Monday marked "another milestone" for the region's healthcare infrastructure.

"Primary care is the bedrock of the reform of the Irish health service, and we are very pleased to have arrived at this juncture today."

EDUCATION

Engineering event at Shannon Airport

THE Mid-West Limerick for Engineering Showcase 2018 takes place on March 1 in Shannon Airport. More than 30 companies will be in attendance. See limerickforengineering.ie.

HEALTH

62 patients treated on trolleys at UHL

ACCORDING to figures published by the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation on Monday, there were 62 patients being treated on ED trolleys and extra trolleys or beds in UHL wards.

LIME TREE THEATRE

Joanna Trollope in conversation

BEST selling author Joanna Trollope will appear in conversation with Liz Nolan of RTÉ Lyric FM in the Lime Tree this Wednesday at 8pm. She will be discussing her latest novel *An Unsuitable Match*.

RECRUITMENT

SVP charity seeks new members

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is seeking new members, and there's a recruitment and information evening on Wednesday February 28, at the Savoy Hotel at 7.30pm. For further information please call 061 317327.

BUSINESS

Entrepreneur's Network address

Co-founder of The Irish Fairy Door Company, Niamh Sherwin-Barry, will be the guest speaker at a Network Ireland Limerick event at 6.30pm on February 21 at The Savoy Hotel.

BUSINESS

Apprenticeships call by Chamber

Shannon Chamber is organising an apprenticeship-focused evening and wishes to hear from companies who run apprenticeship schemes. It takes place on March 14 from 6-8pm in St Patrick's Comprehensive Shannon

Jobs for Shannon after merger of aviation company

A NEWLY merged aviation company has announced an expansion at the Shannon Free Zone that will double its workforce.

The newly merged aviation company STS UJet has announced the creation of 28 jobs at its Shannon operation over the next two years.

The aircraft interior modification and refurbishment specialist, previously trading as indigenous Irish company UJet Group, has announced that it is expanding its business operation and es-

tablishing a European Hub at Shannon Free Zone following a merger with US company STS Component Solutions.

STS Component Solutions is a division of STS Aviation Group, which currently offer materials management, engineering services, technical support, original equipment manufacturer distribution, and supply chain management solutions to the aerospace industry based in Florida.

The company will now offer its growing global cus-

tomers base robust Aircraft Interior refurbishment and modification services including, full cabin reconfiguration, aircraft seats and support services under the newly formed brand, STS UJet.

STS UJet president Mark Robertson said: "We are delighted to be expanding our operation to Shannon Free Zone. Our new facilities provide us with the space to grow and expand into the future. Within two years we expect to more than double our

workforce to 50 people, which currently stands at 22 people."

STS UJet will join the growing cluster of 60 aviation companies based at Shannon Free Zone which employ over 2,600 people. The company has secured its property requirements from Shannon Commercial Properties and Ray O'Driscoll, managing director, said the company was "delighted to have been able to provide the property solutions that STS UJet needs to grow".



STS UJet president Mark Robertson



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BUSINESS: LIMERICK RANKS HIGH IN EUROPEAN CITIES AWARDS

Council predicting a 'bright future'

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LIMERICK has won three prizes in the European Cities of the Future awards, which are hosted by a specialist division of the Financial Times.

The city has been named European City of the Future in its population category as well as ranking first for Business Friendliness and FDI Strategy in its population category.

The awards for 2018-2019 are hosted by fDi magazine, an international news and foreign direct investment magazine published by fDi



A 'bright future': Pat Daly, Limerick council

Intelligence, a specialist division from The Financial Times Ltd.

The magazine's biennial league tables of the most attractive locations in Europe

for future inward investment have become a key benchmark of Foreign Direct Investment competitiveness across the continent. They serve as a barometer of attractiveness for the many cities and regions, from Ireland to Russia and from Finland down to Greece, that are proactively pitching themselves for inward investment.

In addition Limerick city has been named Runner-Up for Best for Economic Potential and has been included in a list of the top 10 European cities in its population category for Human Capital and Lifestyle.

Overall Limerick is ranked 16th in the European Cities of the Future 2018/19

beating Copenhagen, Basel, Geneva, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Eindhoven, while Limerick is also in the Top 10 Best Northern European Cities featuring London, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Dublin and Stockholm.

Mayor Stephen Keary said he was "delighted that Limerick is receiving international recognition which can only further boost the efforts to promote Limerick's attractiveness as an investment location".

Economic director Pat Daly said: "We have laid the foundations for the future investing over €1 billion in our enterprise and investment infrastructure.

"The future is very bright," he added.

Lollipop Day aims to fight cancer

THE ANNUAL Lollipop Day collection for oesophageal cancer is set to take place in Limerick on the weekend of February 23 and 24 to raise vital research funding for the disease.

Limerick Metropolitan Mayor Sean Lynch will also host a coffee morning on Tuesday, February 20 between 10 and 12 at City Hall, to raise funds for the vital cause.

Ireland has one of the highest rates of oesophageal cancer in Europe, with almost 400 new cases diagnosed every year - a number which is estimated to rise to at least 800 by 2040, according to the National Cancer Registry Ireland.

"I know that times are still tough for a lot of people, but I would ask them to support Lollipop Day because we receive no state funding and are totally reliant on our fundraising income," said Limerick Lollipop Day

fundraising organiser Noel Walsh.

The people of Limerick were very generous in last year's Lollipop Day collection, raising €21,000 for oesophageal cancer research, and raising public awareness of the disease.

When Noel contracted oesophageal cancer 14 years ago, he had never heard of the disease.

"This is one of the lesser known cancers in Ireland and I had to get the surgeon to explain to me that it was cancer of the gullet," he said.

Noel survived the tough treatment. "I was very grateful and I wanted to give something back to the Irish Oesophageal Cancer Fund (OCF) - the organisation that raises awareness of the symptoms of this cancer and provides funding for research," he said.

To help fundraise, contact Noel at nandpwalsh@eircom.net or 086 828 8147.

Experts and survivor to give insights into breast cancer at free UHL public lecture

THE PUBLIC will this week get an insight into University Hospital Limerick's symptomatic breast unit and the services available to those with breast cancer in the Mid-West region.

The free public lecture will take place at the Clinical Education and Research Centre at the Dooradoyle hospital this Tuesday at 6pm.

As part of UL Hospitals' lecture series and Healthy Ireland programme, a number of medical experts will speak at the event.

The line-up includes breast cancer survivor Ciara McNamara; consultant breast surgeon, Ashish Lal; senior specialist breast radiographer Kim Wheeler; and Meadh MacSweeney, clinical lymphoedema nurse specialist. Speaking ahead of the event, Mr Lal said that they will detail lymphoedema, one of the more common post-operative complications of breast cancer.

"This is actually a poorly understood phenomenon

and our lymphoedema specialist will go through it, explain what exactly it is and what patients can do about it to counter any misconception that if you do get it, it is the end of the world and nothing can be done.

"We want to tell the public what we do in the Symptomatic Breast Unit and what the journey is like for them once they are referred here. Some of the specialist team will talk people through some of the more common things we do here," Mr Lal said.

The service is centred in the Symptomatic Breast Unit, which opened on the Fourth Floor of the Leben Building at UHL in 2016. The unit includes two ultrasound and two mammography suites with cutting edge diagnostics; consultation rooms; a multidisciplinary team conference room; a prosthesis fitting room; a family room; administrative offices and a quiet room where women can retire for cancer consultations and information.

Amanda Byram drops into Crescent to promote activewear range



Amanda Byram with Anne Maire Breslin, Pamela Scott and Carmel Flynn, store manager, Pamela Scott, promoting her new range of active wear BodybyByram at the Crescent Shopping Centre last week

Right: Amanda Byram with, Daire Hickey McGovern, Shannon PICTURES: ADRIAN BUTLER





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CRAGHOPPERS



HELLY HANSEN



COURIER: DEFENDANT WAS TRANSPORTING DRUGS FROM CITY

Cannabis found in spare tyre of van

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A JUDGE has warned a man who was caught transporting almost €60,000 worth of cannabis that he is keeping all of his options open.

Patrick Foley, aged 29, who has an address at Brookville Avenue, Tipperary Town, has pleaded guilty to possession of around 3kgs of the drugs for the purpose of sale or supply at Ballysimon Road on January 6, 2016.

The drugs were recovered when a vehicle was stopped and searched around two miles outside the city.

Detective Garda Martin McCarthy told Limerick Circuit Court there was a "notable smell" emanating from the boot of the van which was travelling out-bound when stopped. The cannabis was found concealed inside a spare tyre



Judge Tom O'Donnell adjourned the matter for twelve months

which had been slit.

While Foley was not the registered owner of the vehicle, he admitted travelling by bus to Limerick earlier in the day to collect the van knowing there were

drugs hidden inside.

Tom McGowan BL said his client cooperated with gardai and made "full and frank admissions" following his arrest.

He said the father-of-two,

who has no great wealth, had developed a severe drug addiction following the death of his father and that his life was spiraling out of control.

"Everything was going swimmingly well. It (his father's death) had an absolutely catastrophic effect on him and he turned to drink and drugs," he said.

He submitted Foley was a "pawn in this operation" and that he would have been under pressure to drive the van from others higher up the chain.

During a review of the case, Judge Tom O'Donnell noted Mr Foley has been doing very well since he completed a residential treatment programme last summer.

Noting the defendant's difficult personal circumstances, he said he was willing to give him a chance by adjourning the matter for review in twelve months' time.

"I'll give credit where credit is due but I'm keeping all of my options open," he said.

Jailed for role in robbery at city internet cafe

A YOUNG man who threatened and robbed a worker at an internet cafe in the city centre has been jailed for three years, writes David Hurley.

James Connors, aged 24, of Lord Edward Street had pleaded guilty to charges relating to an incident at Station Internet Cafe, Davis Street, on February 20, 2017.

The defendant, who was heavily intoxicated, was one of two men who entered the premises at around 7.25pm.

One of the men threatened a worker while the second went behind the counter and took a significant quantity of cash from the register.

Limerick Circuit Court was told a struggle then ensued during which the employee produced an umbrella and confronted the culprits who escaped with around €1,200 in cash.

Garda Eoghan McDonagh said having been alerted to the incident, gardai located the culprits nearby a short time later. However, he said the stolen money was not recovered and compensation has not been paid.

Brian McInerney BL,

representing Mr Connors, said his client cooperated with gardai and made comprehensive admissions regarding his role in the offence following his arrest.

He commented that CCTV from the internet cafe was of outstanding quality and showed the "utter incompetence" of his client.

He said Mr Connors was "not compos mentis" on the night as he was heavily intoxicated when he entered the premises.

"Short of going in with a sandwich board and a flashing neon light, he couldn't have advertised his intentions any better," he said

During a sentencing hearing, Garda McDonagh agreed with the barrister that while in the premises the second culprit, who has not been prosecuted, appears, according to the CCTV footage, to be intent on "escalating" the incident while Mr Connors can be seen trying to calm him down.

Imposing sentence, Judge Tom O'Donnell said what happened was very serious and cannot be tolerated. He imposed a three year prison sentence, backdating it to the date of the offence.

Inclusive Dreamland shortlisted for national award

Share a Dream's Dreamland, in Limerick, has been shortlisted as one of the national finalists in the Irish Hospitality Awards 2018 - in the best children's play centre in Ireland category.

Over the last few months the Irish Hospitality Awards committee have been running an extensive campaign where the Irish public have been able to nominate their favourite establishment under a number of different categories.

According to Shay Kinsella, creator of Dreamland, "It's a dream come true and shows what can be achieved by one man and thousands of people in Ireland who supported him and believed in his dream. Dreamland is very special because it includes all the family regardless of ability or disability, and it's the first fully accessible and inclusive indoor play centre in Ireland."



More staff to help process allowance

ADDITIONAL staff will be deployed to process carers allowance, a Fine Gael Senator has said.

Sen Maria Byrne raised the issue of a delay in processing applications with her party colleague, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty last week.

And now Sen Byrne can confirm that extra staff will help speed up the process, meaning applicants will receive their payments sooner, she has suggested in a statement.

Senator Byrne said: "I raised the issue after being contacted by people who have been waiting for months for decisions on their social welfare applications.

"I welcome the an-

nouncement from the Minister of Social Protection that more resources are to be allocated to address the significant delays in processing of carers allowance applications.

"New claims for Carers Allowance are currently taking approximately 17 weeks to process while the Domiciliary Care Allowance applications are taking 15 weeks to process.

"There should be continuity in the amount of time a person has to wait for their social welfare application to be processed.

"Other social welfare payments such as job seeker's benefit, illness benefit or a widow or widower's contributory pension are processed in one week," she stated this week.

Ambassador's reception in Washington DC for Limerick's Mary I

AN AMBASSADOR'S reception has been held in Washington DC in honour of Limerick's Mary Immaculate College.

The event was held to coincide with the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Uni-

versities (ACCU), and saw Mary I showcasing award-winning student satisfaction ratings and academic offerings to member universities, as well as to other university partners and high school principals from the region.

Ambassador of Ireland to

the United States, Mr Daniel Mulhall, said that Ireland is "building a new set of relationships" based on educational exchanges.

"We are open to the world and we are looking to find partnerships with universities in the United States

to help us to continue the Irish educational journey," he said.

Explaining why one should study in Ireland, the ambassador said: "You get a world class education but you also get the warm welcome that is probably not matched

anywhere in Europe."

Speaking at the event, Professor Eugene Wall, acting president of MIC, talked about relations with like-minded US institutions.

"Over the last number of years, we have been steadily building contacts and part-

nerships with universities, colleges and high schools all over the world, but we have a particular interest in North America and Australia, and working with other Catholic institutions, in light of our common language and shared ethos," he said.

Residents' anger over knocking of weir wall

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CITY residents have expressed anger over Limerick City and County Council's decision to recently knock the Thomondgate weir wall.

That is according to Sinn Fein councillor John Costelloe who is now calling on the Council to provide more community consultation prior to these types of decisions being made.

Cllr Costelloe, who held a community meeting last Tuesday to discuss the matter, said that he received "numerous calls from local residents angry to have been woken to the knocking of this wall".

"Concerns were expressed regarding how this decision could impact on them with fears of increased dumping and anti-social behaviour in the area," he said.

He commended two Council officials for attending the meeting at Kinsella's Bar, after which "many of these fears have since been allayed".

"While their attendance was



Sinn Fein councillor John Costelloe calls for more community consultation for local authority decisions that may have an impact on the area

greatly appreciated, it is regretful that such a consultation wasn't held prior to the commencement of works on the weir.

"There remains a frustration in the area that such a location, straddling the river, remains in a condition of disrepair.

"At a time when we are trying to highlight our maiden city to tourists globally, it seems remiss

of our Council to leave such an idyllic river bank location in such a condition.

"We hope now that the Council will commence consultation with residents in the area to determine how to utilize this location for the betterment of the local community and the city more generally," the north-side councillor said.



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NEWS

PURSUIT: STOLEN CAR WAS DRIVEN AT SPEEDS IN EXCESS OF 120KPH DURING CHASE IN CITY

Driver was high and banned

FINTAN WALSH

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THE driver of a stolen car which flipped "at least three times" during a high speed pursuit was disqualified from driving and did not have insurance, a court has heard.

Michael Shanahan, aged 25, of Garryglass Avenue, Ballinacurra Weston, has pleaded guilty to multiple charges relating to an incident in the early hours of May 19, 2017.

During a sentencing hearing, Detective Garda Brian Culbert said the defendant stole a 12L-registered Peugeot 308 from the driveway of a house at Ballinacurra Road after opening the front door of the

house and taking the keys.

Some time later – at around 2am – gardai were alerted to a collision involving the stolen car and another car at the junction of Childers Road and Hyde Road.

Judge Tom O'Donnell was told the defendant had driven through a red light and that he failed to remain at the scene.

Gardai encountered the Peugeot at Lord Edward Street a short time later with its lights turned off.

"Quite a chase ensued," said John O'Sullivan BL, instructed by state solicitor Padraig Mawe.

Detective Garda Culbert said the stolen Peugeot reached speeds in excess of 120kph during the pursuit and that it drove the wrong way on Rosbrien Road.

The vehicle performed a

180 degree turn in the car park of Lidl before travelling to Greenfields Road in an attempt to evade gardai.

After entering Ballinacurra Gardens, the vehicle struck a footpath flipped a number of times before landing on its roof.

Pat Whymys BL said his client had attended a party earlier in the night during which he consumed cocaine and Xanax.

"He was in a bad state," he said noting that blood tests taken on the night had shown a high concentration of the drugs in Mr Shanahan's system.

Having been shown photographs of the crash scene, Judge O'Donnell commented they were "enlightening and frightening".

The matter was adjourned to March 5, next for sentencing.



Michael Shanahan was prosecuted on indictment at Limerick Circuit Court



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Out&About

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE BEEN OUT AND ABOUT TO THE HOTTEST NIGHT SPOTS IN AND AROUND LIMERICK. THIS WEEK THEY VISITED GLEN TAVERN, NANCY BLAKE'S, SMYTH'S & TED'S



Emily Meehan, Claire Anderson and Zibby Smith at Nancy Blake's



Alannah Crowley, Mae Mears and Aoife Wiseman at Smyth's



Emily Murphy and Therese Lennon at Smyth's



ABOVE: Orla Fraher, Lorna O'Regan and Jennifer Falvey at Smyth's
PICTURES: DAVE GAYNOR

Alan Griffin and Annie O'Hara at Ted's



Aimee McGrath, Siobhan Pierce and Kellie Corbett at Ted's



Abbey Stewart and Meg Slattery at Ted's



Dean Maidment and David Kelly at The Glen Tavern



Neasa Collins and Kate O'Donnell at Smyth's

HSE Mid West
Community Healthcare

Public Notice


Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



HSE Mid West Community Healthcare wishes to advise our new “Barrack View” Primary Care Centre located at Lord Edward St, Limerick will be opening to the public on Monday February 19th

Barrack View Primary Care Centre will provide a range of Primary Care Services - including Public Health Nursing, Speech and language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Psychology Services and Dietetics Services

The Primary Care team at Barrack View will provide those services to people in the following geographical areas of Limerick City

**Ballinacurra, South Circular Rd O Connell Ave, Ballinacurra Weston,
Hyde Rd, Prospect, Carey’s Rd, Lord Edward St,
St Joseph’s St, Wolfe Tone St, Henry St, Mount Kennett
Dock Rd**

The public are welcome to an open day of the new facility on Monday 19th February 2018

HSE Mid West
Community Healthcare


Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

LISTINGS OUT&ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT CINEMA THEATRE

The Guide

Limerick
Chronicle



<http://www.limerickleader.ie/what-s-on>

GIG OF THE WEEK

Duelling pianos at the Lime Tree with Jack O'Rourke and Paddy Dennehy show

THE Lime Tree Theatre plays host to The Piano Men: An Evening With Jack O'Rourke and Paddy Dennehy on Saturday.

Local musician Paddy will be joined by Cork's Jack - who has strong links to Limerick - for the intimate double headliner this Saturday (doors 8pm, tickets €24.50).

The show will see them performing a blend of their own originals and some beloved classics. Expect some new tunes and songs and a bit of a 'piano off' between the pair. Dennehy, with his band The Red Herring, has performed with Glen Hansard and at Electric Picnic in the last 18 months, while O'Rourke's critically acclaimed debut album Dreamcatcher reached no. 5 in the Irish charts. See www.limetreetheatre.ie for more,



Join Geraghty for this Dolan's gig

Multi-instrumentalist and songwriter David Geraghty, a driving force behind Bell X1 for 20 years, returns to Limerick this week in his other guise.

The musician, performing under the moniker Join Me In The Pines, performs Upstairs in Dolan's this Friday night (doors 8pm, tickets €15).

Those that have seen this live offering or indeed have listened to Geraghty's solo 2007 debut Kill Your Darlings, the follow-up The Victory Dance or 2014's Inherit, the first under Join Me in the Pines, know that this is a very special prospect indeed. If you have never had the pleasure, do not miss this gig. See www.dolans.ie.



Bell X1's David Geraghty, performing solo as Join Me in the Pines

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

THE ACOUSTIC CLUB
Charlie Malone's Bar, 9pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

OPEN MIC

Chez le Fab, 7pm

A NIGHT FOR TERI

O'Briens Bar, 7.30pm

JOANNA TROLLOPE

Lime Tree, 8pm. €16

IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR

Belltable, 8pm, also Thurs. €17/15

TRAD MUSIC

The Glen Tavern, 9pm

OPEN MIC

The Old Quarter, 9pm

BASSHUNTER

Habitat, 10.30pm. €11

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

THE MAN IN BLACK

UCH, 8pm. €25/22

BEN NICKY

The Library, 10pm. €8

COLIN O'NIEL

The Glen Tavern, 10pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

SPEAKING OF DREAMS

Belltable, 8pm. €20/17

JOIN ME IN THE PINES

Dolan's Upstairs, 8pm. €15

JASON HENNESSY

The Glen Tavern, 10pm

STICKY FINGERS

The Old Quarter, 10pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PADDY DENNEHY & JACK O'ROURKE

Lime Tree, 8pm. €24.50

PAT SHORTT

UCH, 8pm. €28

REBELLIOUS JUKEBOX

Kasbah Social Club, 9pm. Free

CHRIS CORNELL TRIBUTE

Dolan's Warehouse, 9pm. €10

THE PROPHETS

The Old Quarter, 10pm

JOE MOLONEY

The Glen Tavern, 10.30pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

TRAD MUSIC

Locke, nightly at 9pm, Sun-Thurs

MUSICAL CHAIRS

The Old Quarter, 7pm

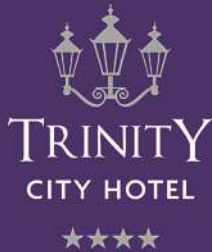
QUENTIN

The Glen Tavern, 10pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

HAPPY END

Belltable, 8pm. €8



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The new departure times from Dublin Airport are;
00:30hrs, 06:00hrs, 08:00hrs, 10:00hrs, 12:00hrs, 14:00hrs, 16:00hrs,
18:00hrs, 20:00hrs, 22:00hrs & 00:30hrs.

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
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MEGHANN MIX



with
**Meghann
Scully**



CONTACT MEGHANN

Twitter: @meghann_scully
email: meghann.scully@spinsouthwest.com

Finishing a chapter in my life

MY book is launching in March and it is a personal story about grief and loss. In it I explore the feelings and emotions attached to losing the ones we love. The book is going to print this week and I cannot wait to have my hands on a physical copy.

I am not a psychologist and I haven't studied it in any form, I am just a girl telling my story in the hope of helping others. After the passing of my brother and father when I was a teenager, my mother had loads of books about grief and how to deal with loss. I tried reading them but none of them spoke to me in a way that I could understand.

In 2011 I set up a blog as a platform for the work I did during my Masters. During that year I shared a very personal piece about my struggles with grief. It got such a great response that I started to share more material and realised that I wanted to write a book about it. The book will be broken into two sections. Section one is my own story and what happened to me from losing my brother and my father to



Meghann will launch her book *Broken Love*, in Limerick next month

the journey I went on and the suffering I felt. I'll be explaining everything from the loneliness to feeling depressed and how I overcame it all to accept what happened and to move on with my life. This part of the book is very raw and emotional.

I'll also be talking about separation and divorce and my experience with it and having two homes growing up. The book is quite heavy and so it will be broken up with poetry that I wrote myself over the years.

The second part of the

book looks at the healing and the things I did to help myself from alternative healing to tips and tricks I picked up over the years. I'll also be touching on organ donation as my dad was a kidney transplant recipient getting his transplant when he was 21

and only for that I wouldn't even be here.

I love that my publisher, Book Hub Publishing, is letting me be so heavily involved with the design of the book and I've been looking at colour schemes lately. I've finalised the front cover image

as well and it is going to be a butterfly as they have been hugely significant to me.

Broken Love is launching in March and I will be holding a launch in Limerick in a few weeks because I wrote most of the book here and Limerick has become my home.

PICK 'N' MIX



Ready to hit the decks

SINGLE IN DINGLE

I am DJing at a party in Dingle on Saturday the 17th of February. It's happening in the Hillgrove nightclub. A fun night with games and hopefully some romance so if you're looking for a goof night out come join us.



And the winner is...

GOSSIES

Ed and I are nominated for our first ever radio award at the Gossie Awards happening in Dublin on February 23. We would love your support. You can vote online at goss.ie

SIX NATIONS ACTION



ON Saturday Ireland took on Italy for round two of the Six Nations. The Italians were feeling the burn of the English having lost 15-46 on the opening weekend. Ireland got a very lucky win in Paris when Johnny Sexton kicked that drop goal in the 82nd minute to win 15-13.

That winning habit was maintained at the weekend as Ireland an-

nihilated the Italians in the Aviva Stadium. Tries came from Munster's Conor Murray and Keith Earls, as well as debut international tries from Bundee Aki and Jacob Stockdale. It was a quick game of rugby with plenty of action and tries. Ireland came away with a comfortable win of 56-19. Tadhg Furlong and Robbie Henshaw went

off with very worrying injuries, however, so it has come at a cost.

Next up Ireland face Wales on February 23 and Joe Schmidt will need to look at how the Irish let the Italians in for three tries. From Munster, Conor Murray, Keith Earls and Peter O'Mahony all started and CJ Stander came on. All are sure to line out against the Welsh.

Win free tickets to Longitude

LONGITUDE

The music festival is happening in Marlay Park the Summer and the line up includes Travis Scott, Post Malone and Khalid and you can win tickets all week on Fully Charged.



Your Perfect Wedding



Spring
2018

DERMOT CULHANE
PHOTOGRAPHY

Limerick
Strand Hotel

LIMERICK LEADER

Humanist and spiritual 'I dos' are capturing the imagination

More Limerick couples are marrying in unconventional ways

JESS CASEY
e-mail: jess.casey@limerickleader.ie
Twitter: Jess_JCasey

CELTIC priest Dara Molloy hardly has enough time to take a holiday, his services are in such high demand.

"It's the one time of the year I don't have weddings," he chuckled.

"And even this time of the year I do but I've managed to find two weeks now where I'm free so I'm grabbing that!"

As a secular solemniser specialising in performing wedding blessings and marriage ceremonies in the Celtic tradition, his schedule is fully booked for Fridays and Saturdays this upcoming summer.

More and more Limerick couples are opting to tie the knot in a different way, veering away from traditional church weddings and choosing instead to celebrate their love with humanist, spiritualist and Celtic ceremonies.

Secular wedding ceremonies in Limerick have increased by more than 160% in the last two years, according to figures from the Civil Registry Office.

While humanist ceremonies are free from any references to religion, elements of religion can be incorporated into a non-denominational spiritual ceremony although ceremonies don't conform to the same aspects of mainstream religious beliefs.

"It's a secular ceremony in that while its a spiritual ceremony, it doesn't emanate from any particular religion or church but it is still very spiritual."

"In the ceremony itself you'd have the usual things! You'd have an aisle, and you'd have the bride walked in with maybe her bridal

party or maybe her dad."

"There's a lot of flexibility with my ceremonies. I give people an outline of the sort of things I can do and I give them an outline of a possible structure, but I say to them - 'That's yours now, that's like a menu in a restaurant, you pick what you want out of that'. I'm very open, flexible and people like that because they want to be able to design the wedding themselves."

"A lot of people who deal with me, they want a blessing or prayers included. Not necessarily Catholic prayers, it may be a secular prayer. If they don't want God mentioned, I'll call in the four elements, or I'll say a gathering prayer which means I gather up all the good wishes and blessings people have wished them on their wedding day to surround them with all that goodwill."

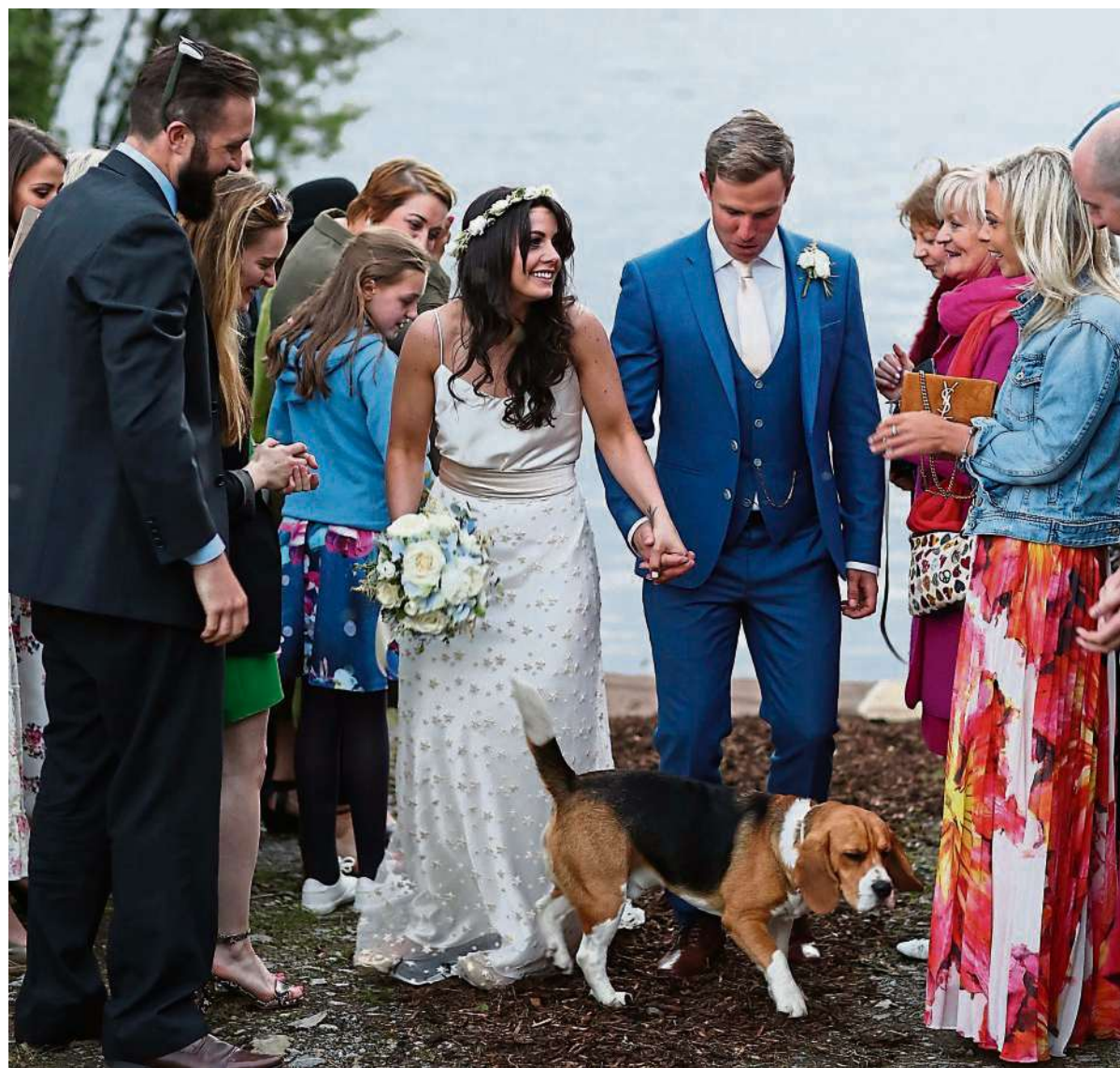
"Couples can also have any type of reading they like, scripture if they want but most people don't go for scripture, they can have poetry, they can have extracts from books, they can have even the words of songs. There's a lovely song by Leonard Cohen called Dance Me to the End of Love, lyrics like that."

He tends to get to know each couple quite well.

"I give them options for how I can dress for the ceremony because I can dress in my suit but I can also dress as a druid, or as a monk or as a priest and that really depends on what sort of tone they are setting with their ceremony. If there's a lot of Christian prayers in it I might dress as a priest, if they wanted to be more spiritual without anyone expression of one religion, then I might dress as a monk and if they want to go for the full on Celtic, then I'll dress as a druid."

"The druid is very popular."

Last summer, in demand makeup artist Sarah Morris, from



Above: Sarah Morris and Dave Dineen who married June 3 last at a spiritualist ceremony at their home in Ballina (Killaloe) and left, Sarah and Dave with their celebrant Aidan Storey PICTURES: SELINA O'MEARA

Raheen, married Dave Dineen in a lakeside spiritualist ceremony that took place at sunset at their home which nestles on Lough Derg.

"But of course we got married in June, when it doesn't get dark until about 10.30pm," she laughed.

"A lot of my friends this year would have gone down that road. I genuinely just think that a lot of people my age don't go to Mass so it would be hypocritical doing the whole church thing. I can understand why you would, but I wouldn't feel right going into a church and getting married considering I never go to Mass or practice any religion, that would be my reasoning behind it."

"But Dave and I don't necessarily not believe in religion either. We felt like a spiritualist ceremony would be best because if you want to incorporate religion, you have that option. We didn't end up doing that in the end."

"We just wanted to have our wed-

ding as personal as possible, so having the ceremony at home meant we weren't going to be able to get married in a church."

The couple found their celebrant, Aidan Storey through spiritualceremonies.ie.

After a family dinner in the nearby Killaloe village, Sarah and Dave joined their 126 guests for a drinks reception. Afterwards, they exchanged their vows in a "rustic" ceremony on the lake shore. Later, her guests had the option of camping through the night.

The bride also opted to wear white; "I had gold stars on my dress but I still wore white!"

Instead of a reading, Sarah's sister-in-law and brother carried out a mindfulness exercise.

"The idea was to take a few moments to get everybody present in the moment so it was almost like a mediation because I suppose the day runs so quickly and everybody is rushing, it grounded everybody and

helped to appreciate the surroundings."

"And around the actual legal ceremony, we did the tying the knot, which is actually tying the knot. We had four different ribbons to represent earth, wind, fire and water, all different colours. The idea is that you get three different generations to tie the ribbons So myself and Dave, our hands were on top of each others, then my mother put one ribbon over us, my sister put another ribbon on and our niece put another one and they were all tied. Myself and Dave pulled our hands apart and Dave's niece caught the ribbon."

"Dave's mum had passed away a few months before so we lit a remembrance candle to represent her and her presence, I don't know if that's done in traditional ceremonies."

"I guess the only thing that was close to tradition ceremonies was the legal part because that has to be included in every ceremony."

Their family loved the ceremony, she said.

"They were just happy to let me and Dave do our own thing."

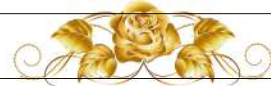
"I have heard of people who go down the non-traditional route who get a lot of stick from their families but usually they love it anyway."

"They just might be afraid of the unknown I guess."

"Because it's such an amazing day and it's all about love and bringing people together, you don't hear that feedback after it happens so that apprehension before is just a fear of the unknown."



Teepees set up at Sarah's wedding for guests who had the option of camping



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planning, enjoy the engagement and remember the reason you are here is for love after all.

The award winning four-star hotel has recently added another notable achievement to its list of accolades.

The Absolute is the only Limerick hotel to make it into the top 10 Best hotels in Ireland in this year's TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards.

General manager Donnacha Hurley said: "We are thrilled with this accolade, we will be having another party here at the Absolute for the staff."

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Get a flavour of that customer-centred service yourself when you book your wedding at the Absolute

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Top: Overlook the Abbey river as you and your guests celebrate your nuptials; above, a glimpse of the stunning bedrooms

'Thanks for the perfect day!'



Lucy and Kelly celebrating their big day with family and friends at the Absolute Hotel

"This was definitely one of the best (and easiest) day of our lives. People talk about the difficulty of managing a wedding but the whole thing was a breeze! All the staff at the Absolute Hotel showed professionalism, interest,

and courtesy throughout the planning and the event, whilst also revealing their easy-going and warm personalities. From the bar staff (wonderful cocktails!), to the kitchen staff (delicious food), waiting staff (kind and efficient), to the

event and management teams (engaging and warm), we couldn't have asked for more! Thank-you to all for the day. If we were permitted to do it all again, we would!"

-LUCY AND KELLY

Absolute Hotel

LIMERICK

Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick
 +353 61 463610 events@absolutehotel.com www.absolutehotel.com

BOUTIQUE WEDDING PACKAGE AT THE ABSOLUTE HOTEL LIMERICK

Are you planning an intimate wedding celebration?
 Then look no further than the Absolute Hotel Limerick.
 We will host your ceremony followed by a meal in our restaurant overlooking the stunning Abbey River followed by your evening celebration in our private function room to dance the night away.
 Contact Karen for something a little different...
 T's & C's apply

MIKE O'CONNELL

Menswear Dress Hire Estd 1986

MIKE O'CONNELL MENSWEAR



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BIG DAY...

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or dress casual.....
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you covered!

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ALL WEDDINGS
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Email: info@mikeoconnells.com
Web: www.mikeoconnells.com



O'Connell streets ahead for the groom in the room



MIKE O'Connell Menswear, Catherine Street is currently offering 20% off all wedding suits booked in the months of September and October. We have a variety of suits in stock to hire. We offer slim 3 piece suits across our range and we offer the more traditional top hat and tails for that person looking for something a little bit different. We have a large range of slim Remus Uomo and Magee suits to buy also. There are many different styles to choose from bold and subtle checks to nice stretch fabric suits and some sleek navy and grey suits. Please call in to see our range and avail of your 20% discount you won't be disappointed.



From the traditional to the modern Mike O'Connell has all styles covered and for the next two months is offering a 20% discount on all suits ordered in-store




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Win YOUR ENGAGEMENT RING WITH SÓ HOTELS

Win a bespoke piece of jewellery designed especially for you
by Gráinne Seoige of Grace Diamonds worth **€5000!**



To be in with a chance of winning simply attend our
Wedding Fairs on 18th February from 1pm - 5pm



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 SÓ
HOTELS

GRACE
DIAMONDS
BY GRAÏNNE SEOIGE

*T&C's Apply. Engagement ring has an insurance value of €5000. May be substituted for another piece of jewellery if desired. Image of ring is for illustration purposes only, design to be customised by the winner. Prize is non transferrable against other services. Cash equivalent not offered.

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CASTLETROY PARK HOTEL



create a day that your family and friends will remember for years at the Castletroy Park Hotel

Personal attention is given every step of your perfect day

DISCOVER the elegance of the Castletroy Park Hotel with their contemporary modern decor served with a traditional twist of luxury. Castletroy Park Hotel makes planning your wedding easier than you ever imagined.

Their team of wedding specialists ensures attention to every important detail, allowing you to relax and fully savour your special day. We're known for taking our service to another level. Castletroy Park Hotels's team are there not just to make this the best day of your life, but to create a day that your family and friends will remember for years. Together with you we will effortlessly create moments that will last a lifetime. For more information see www.castletroypark.ie.

Upcoming Wedding Events: Wedding Showcase, Sunday February 18 from 1-5pm by appointment only.

Recently engaged couples will be in with a chance to win a bespoke diamond engagement ring valued at €5,000 with Só Hotels which will be designed by Gráinne Seoige of GraceDiamonds.ie. Guests

are invited to any of the Só Hotels upcoming wedding fairs where they can enter the competition to win, view the breath-taking venues while dedicated wedding teams will be on hand to answer any questions couples may have. The Só Hotel group incorporates Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick, Charleville Park Hotel County Cork, Killeshin Hotel in Portlaoise and Lough Rea Hotel and Spa, Galway.

Each of the Wedding Fairs and Showcases will give couples the opportunity to view their stunning Ballrooms and luxurious Bridal Suites and get information on each of the hotel's wedding packages. Guests can sample some delicious cocktails and mouth-watering hors d'œuvres and meet the award-winning wedding team with fantastic offers available on the day.

Grace Diamonds was launched in 2016 to huge acclaim at the New York Bridal Fashion Week when Gráinne designed a one-off range of stunning jewellery to complement the bridal collection of international fashion designer Don O'Neill. The TV host subsequently moved to South Africa where she developed her diamond ring

business. Each unique piece is polished, cut, set and then sent directly to the client. Gráinne feels that this means that the possibilities for beautiful bespoke custom designed diamond and precious gemstone pieces are endless. "I feel that we give our clients great freedom to really express themselves," she said. "The marriage of Irish style with South African design heritage, authenticity and expertise offers affordable luxury without compromise."

The lucky Só Hotels winner will get a unique hand-crafted ring, designed specifically to their liking by Grace Diamonds where the winner will receive 3D images of it giving photorealistic images of the ring-to-be from several angles before being made into a stunning piece of jewellery. The diamond will be ethically sourced and certified and if the winner already has an engagement ring she can choose from another piece of customised jewellery to the value of €5,000! "I am delighted with this collaboration with the Só Hotel Group," Gráinne said "and I'm excited to design a beautiful piece of jewellery for the lucky winner."

CONNOLLY MENSWEAR



With more than 40 years' experience, Connolly Formal has the range and the expertise to ensure that your wedding day is a truly special - and stylish - occasion

Getting It Right

CONNOLLY Formal in Limerick has always been synonymous with quality dress hire because we appreciate that special occasions are exactly that - special.

Our guarantee is and always has been to source and carry only the finest quality garments. We have been in business for more than 40 years and in that time we believe we have justly earned a reputation for providing our customers with excellent value, unrivalled variety and expert service. Just come in and find our for yourself.

Experience counts!

We stock all the leading labels and we can promise you the friendliest and most professional of services.

The choice at Connolly Formal is extensive, ranging from the traditional wedding suit hire to the modern, Pageboy Collection, waistcoat selections, all the extras and groomsman gifts.

Our range of tuxedos is available to hire or purchase. Out of town guests can liaise with us online.

Check out our extensive range at the region's top dress hire outlet.

Visit our website on www.connollyman.com and browse our wedding selec-

tion for ideas and information.

Also check out our facebook page for current wedding styles www.facebook.com/ConnollyManLimerick

Robert Tierney and his team are on hand to assist you and will be delighted to be of service.

Feel free to call in for a viewing or consultation any time. No appointment is necessary.

All Connolly Group gift vouchers are of course valid or wedding hire.

Please visit the Patrick Street, Limerick (061-410324) or O'Connell Street, Clonmel (052-6124432)





Being the very best means knowing what's important

At Connolly Man, create your own individualised look for your wedding day. Whether you want to wear this season's latest suiting style, or prefer a more traditional look, we've got you covered. With a large wedding hire section and an extensive suiting department, we'll help you style yourself your way.

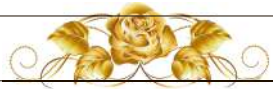


Connolly

formal

Patrick Street, **Limerick** (061) 410324 • O'Connell St, **Clonmel** (052) 6124432

www.connollyman.com



Call on Culhane to capture the magic

Multi award winning photographer Dermot Culhane's natural talent, eye for detail and dedication to his craft has seen him win many awards during his career.

His vast experience in traditional and reportage photography along with his ability to make people feel at ease in front of the camera make for naturally outstanding wedding photography. Dermot has had work commissioned from every part of Ireland, UK and Europe and is a favourite among many celebrity couples. Dermot's photography is about capturing all the authentic moments that tell the real wedding story.

In 2016 Dermot received the Irish Professional Photographers Associations National Wedding Photographer of the Year award. He has also been awarded the IPPA Best Contemporary Wedding Image of the year and Wedding Portfolio of the year as well as Wedding Reportage Photographer of the year.

Dermot's fresh outlook, enthusiasm, and creative talent, combined with the very best equipment make his pictures the centerpiece of any room and great conversation pieces, as well as being beautiful reminders of cherished moments. These qualities, and his reputation for reliability and a personal service tailored to the wishes of the client have also seen Dermot's photography grace the walls of many offices and homes throughout the country. His work has also been used by many of today's leading interior decorators.



Dermot's natural talent and eye for detail along with an ability to set people at ease make him one of Ireland's outstanding wedding photographers

IPPA National Wedding Photographer of the Year





Love, laughter & happily ever after at the Strand

THE award winning 4-star Limerick Strand Hotel is renowned for its beautiful riverside setting which lends itself quite magically to becoming a dream wedding location.

Having gained an excellent reputation for their setting, service and food, making your day one to remember! Dramatic views of the River Shannon and city skyline all make for spectacular photographic opportunities and with all-inclusive options their packages offers exceptional value.

The Limerick Strand Hotel was delighted to welcome Aishling Casey from Killadysert County Clare to their team last year as Wed-

ding & Events manager. Aishling would be delighted to meet with future brides and grooms and showcase to them the stunning venue.

The Limerick Strand Hotel is offering NEW all-inclusive Wedding Package's- "Love, Laughter & happily ever after". The new packages include a superb range of 4-star Limerick Strand Hotel extras including a complete elegant room décor package including Chivairi Chairs

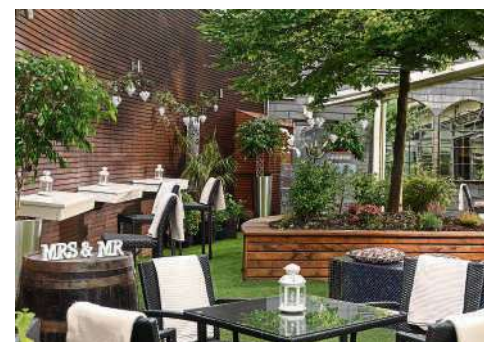
All arrival drinks reception's shall be hosted on the beautiful rooftop City View suite boasting stunning panoramic views of the city and River Shannon The private terrace, high above the river, is the perfect setting for spectacular photographs

and your arrival drinks reception creating that 'wow factor'!

Use of their exclusive ultra-stylish Ice Bar is also included for your arrivals drinks reception.

Make an appointment to meet Aishling & Visit the amazing panoramic rooftop City View Suite along with The exclusive 'Secret Garden' is the perfect backdrop for memorable photographs, daring but delicious drink receptions and dining with a difference.

For further details on the limerick strand hotel wedding packages or to make an appointment with Aishling please contact T 061 421800 email events@strandlimerick.ie or visit www.strandlimerick.ie



From the rooftop view to the exclusive 'Secret Garden' the Limerick Strand Hotel has the perfect space for your wedding guests



WEDDINGS

AT THE FOUR STAR

LIMERICK STRAND HOTEL



Limerick
Strand
Hotel



ASK ABOUT OUR WINTER WEDDING SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2018, WITH PACKAGES FROM €51 P.P.

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BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS

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BIT OF A DO



Great spring looks from Mayrol from Bit of a Do at Ballycasey, Shannon

Kit the kids out for the big day with a trip to Bit of a Do

Great bargains in unique designs at spring sale

BIT of a Do opened its doors in 1990 and since then have built a loyal and fantastic customer base.

It has become Clare's premier fashion boutique for children fashions from babies all the way to those all grown up 14 year old boys & girls. Based in the beautiful Ballycasey Craft Centre for the last fifteen years Bit of a Do is well worth a visit, where there is Free Parking and a welcome awaits you.

For over 25 years Bit of a Do have supplied children's clothes that are different and classic and have something at all prices ranges. Supplying everything from the small well priced present, everyday wear to designer clothes for those so very special occasions you will find what you are looking for at Bit of a Do. There are also have gift vouchers available at all price ranges. Bit of a Do stock many international brands which are all unique in their own way and have something to suit all tastes and budgets. There is new Spring/Summer stock arriving daily from the likes of Mayrol, Levi, Adriana Dee to mention but a few. Bit of a Do also stock a fantastic range of confirmation and communion wear for both boys and girls with lots of stock in store now.

If you are a fan of bright colours, unique & cute design then you will love Tuc Tuc. This brand was born in Spain and is a synonym to creativity and design. Since its beginning in 1994 Tuc Tuc has won the hearts of moms around



the world, offering newborn, baby & kids collections as well as Tuc Tuc accessories.

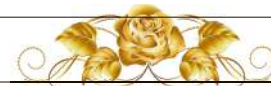
Then there is Mayrol which prides itself on designing high quality, versatile pieces bursting with personality and fun for both boys and girls, offering affordable style. Another great label for the boys is the infamous Timberland which was established in 1955. This well known American brand started its life as a family run shoe company using revolutionary waterproof technology, now it is a worldwide label but they are still committed to "Doing Well & Doing Good", with their high quality children's range providing functional clothing suitable for adventure in the great outdoors.

What little girl and her mum does not love pretty pastels, sequins and sparkle, this is exactly what Billie Blush offers. A beautiful collection that is filled with fun and fem-

inity. If you are looking for kids fashion that is bound to turn heads, look no further than Spanish brand Desigual. Packed with Kaleidoscopic patterns and vibrant colours each piece is designed with freedom, creativity and fun in mind

The Lofff range is for girls that dance, play and explore but especially for those girls that are having fun and enjoying life. Lofff is for parents that adore their daughters. Lofff is love for the girls that love to wear it-it is soft, easy to wear and comfortable; love for the parents who buy it and who wash it.

This is just a taste of some of the fantastic clothing brands that await you at Bit of a Do, Ballycasey, Craft & Design Centre, Shannon, Co. Clare, why not call today and see for yourself. For further information call us on 061 366985 or follow us on Facebook for the latest news and offers.



Another wonderful wedding fayre at the Woodlands

COUPLES looking for their perfect venue and inspiration for their special day visited Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel & Spa, Adare on Sunday, January 28 last.



The four-star hotel, which is located in Ireland's prettiest village, held its Garden of Romance wedding fayre.

Awarded Overall Wedding Venue of the Year 2017 by Brides of Limerick Wedding Industry Awards, Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel & Spa hosted its first wedding some 35 years ago. And, while wedding trends have come and gone, the Fitzgerald family's commitment to going the extra mile for each and every couple has stood the test of time.

On hand at the wedding fayre were brother and sister

team David and Elaina Fitzgerald both of whom advised couples on how to make their special day unique.

The hotel showcased its various table settings including gold trimmed delph, golden handled cutlery and golden candelabras which provide an elegant alternative to the crisp, contemporary silver look both of which match the hotel's beautiful chiavari chairs which are

complimentary for all weddings along with a vintage tea and coffee arrival reception.

Also showcased was a Donut Wall created by the hotel, Woodlands Gin Bar, and a Flower Hoop designed and created by the hotel in-house florist, which is the perfect background to photos of the wedding couple and their guests. In 2017 the hotel's garden was certified for outdoor ceremonies which was showcased under lights that evening.

Whether you are having a church or civil ceremony or inviting two or 450 guests, the strict one wedding a day policy will always apply and you will get the same level of care and attention from David and Elaina Fitzgerald and the entire team at the Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel & Spa.



Just a few snaps from the recent Fitzgeralds Woodlands House Hotel's wedding fayre



What we do differently ...

Arrivals in the Garden ♦ Vintage Tea Cups ♦ Chivari Chairs ♦ Complimentary Gold Settings



With over 35 years experience - you are in safe hands!



Brides of Limerick Overall Wedding Venue of the Year 2017

Contact David Fitzgerald or Elaina Fitzgerald
Tel +353 61 605101 Email weddings@woodlands-hotel.ie
Web www.woodlands-hotel.ie

Ela Maria

The Square House,
Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick
*For Ireland's Largest Selection
of Occasion Wear*



Over 80 labels on three floors including an entire floor dedicated to Occasion Dressing.. From Contemporary to Classic International Designer Labels include Teresa Ripoll, Ian Stuart, Escada, Linea Raffaelli, John Charles, Fely Campo, Luis Civit, Carmen Melero and many more.....

Tel:069-62855 or visit www.elamaria.ie to view the collections!

ELA MARIA NEWCASTLE WEST

Simply fab for spring

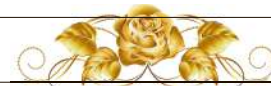
ELA Maria is based in The Square House in Newcastle West and has a nationwide reputation for service, quality and excellence.

With over 80 labels on three floors from Weekend Wear and Smart Casuals to Occasion Wear for Weddings, Races and Parties the choice is endless. Ela Maria has dedicated The Top Floor to occasion dressing and has everything you need to create the perfect look for the mother of the bride/groom. The new spring/summer Collections are stunning with styles ranging from contemporary to classic in stunning fabrics and colours. Labels include award winning designer Ian Stuart as well as leading international labels Teresa Ripoll, Fely Campo, Irresistible, Carmen Melero, Escada, Linea Raffaelli, Luis Civit, Condici, John Charles and Miss Etern to name but a few and sizes are from 8 to 24 so there is something to suit all shapes and sizes.

Hats and headpieces are from Irish Milliners Emily Jean and Siobhan Boyce and have been individually designed to compliment all collections. These together with Ela Maria's eclectic range of shoes, bags and jewellery will add that perfect finishing touch to your outfit. Visit us on www.elamaria.ie or find us on Facebook for images and information.



A popular choice for Spring/Summer Occasion Wear; pink in the right shade is simply divine'.....by John Charles at Ela Maria



Start your family with the Greene family

THE Greenhills Hotel have just launched their new wedding offerings for 2018/2019.

This brochure offers everything a wedding couple could want for their special day, whether you want to wow your guests with a fresh paella cooking in the garden for your drinks reception, or impress with the fantastic late food offering, this brochure and hotel is a must see before you book your big day in Limerick. Catering for bespoke events – from small intimate gatherings to lavish receptions – we promise you an unforgettable wedding day.



raised gardens providing a breath-taking backdrop for your drinks reception, civil ceremony and photographs. It is truly an oasis space – and so close to the city.

The newly landscaped gardens are situated beside our elegant ballroom, which provides couples with photography options without having to leave their guests for any period of time. The whole wedding party are involved in this part of the day.

The Greenhills Hotel has been owned and operated by the Greene family for over 45 years, with Daphne and Hugh Greene on hand to personally welcome you and your guests and ensure you get that personal attention that can only be found in a family-run property.

Hugh, the executive chef at the hotel, is always on hand to discuss menu options with the couple, and is always de-



Evoking the timeless romance of a country garden in the heart of the city, the Greenhills is suited to those seeking a memorable setting

lighted to work with couples who need advice in choosing the perfect menu, and will meet with you at the wedding tasting if more help or advice is required. Daphne, the general manager, takes a hands-on role in all weddings, and personally oversees all de-

tails from the initial meeting to being there on the day to welcome the couple to the hotel, another feature that makes the Greenhills stand out from other hotels.

The hotel has three magnificent suites to choose from for your big day, catering for

40 to 400, with each suite decorated to the highest of standards, offering full room décor, mood lighting and warm candlelit lanterns leading you down to your chosen suite.

Therefore make sure you call out and chat with Daphne

before booking a wedding reception in Limerick. “Every wedding is unique and we deal with each couple individually to listen and guide them to ensure they get a day to remember,” says Daphne.

Contact: 061 453033 or see www.greenhillsgroup.com

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Unrivalled' Fabulous Gardens in the Heart of the City

Civil Ceremonies Inside or Outside where a Red Carpet Welcome Awaits....

Suites to Suit all Group Sizes

NEW WEDDING BROCHURE FOR 2018/2019
NOW AVAILABLE

061 453 033 | www.greenhillsgroup.com



The towering grandeur of the Falls Hotel in its sylvan setting makes for wonderful wedding photographs

At the Falls, our unforgettable setting will help to make your perfect day

Extensive woodlands and gardens and lovely views of the river and waterfalls make for an absolutely wonderful setting, and that's before you go inside to enjoy the fine food and wonderful service

UNFORGETTABLE occasions are made unique at this unforgettable location.

The picturesque and historic Falls Hotel & Spa is located in the heart of the scenic County Clare.

The hotel is surrounded by 50 acres of gardens and woodland, and the river Inagh and cascades waterfall run along the perimeter of the grounds, which provide both a unique and memorable photographic backdrop and idyllic arrival reception setting for your wedding day.

The hotel has 140 bedrooms, 9 apartments, and the luxurious River Spa and the Aqua & Fitness Club.

They offer a complete wedding package to couples to ensure that they can relax on their wedding day and on the run up to it, knowing that all is in hand with Michael



The Falls looks down on the town of Ennistymon, the Inagh river and the cascades

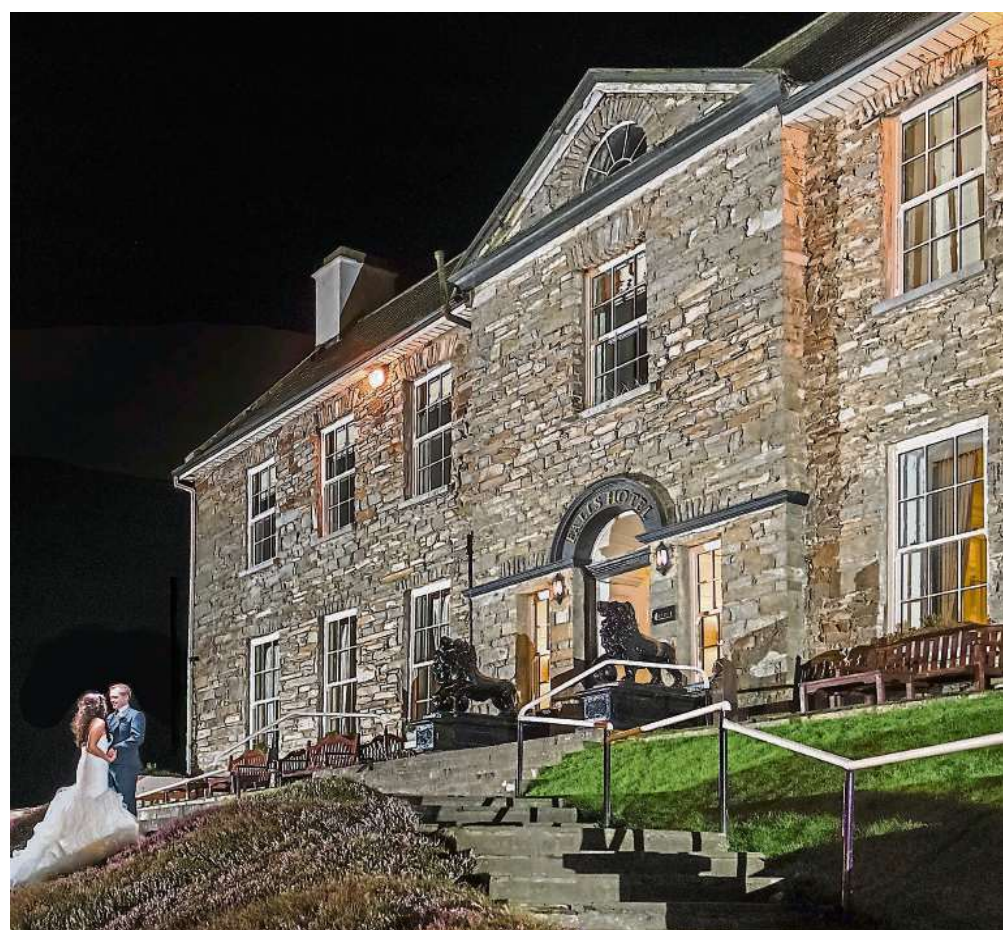
and his team.

The hotel recently was awarded 'Best Venue for Civil Ceremonies' by RSVP Magazine, showing how the hotel has developed its offering to cater for this popular option for couples. The hotel has several suites available for the wedding meal, civil ceremonies and partnerships. The Woodland Suite

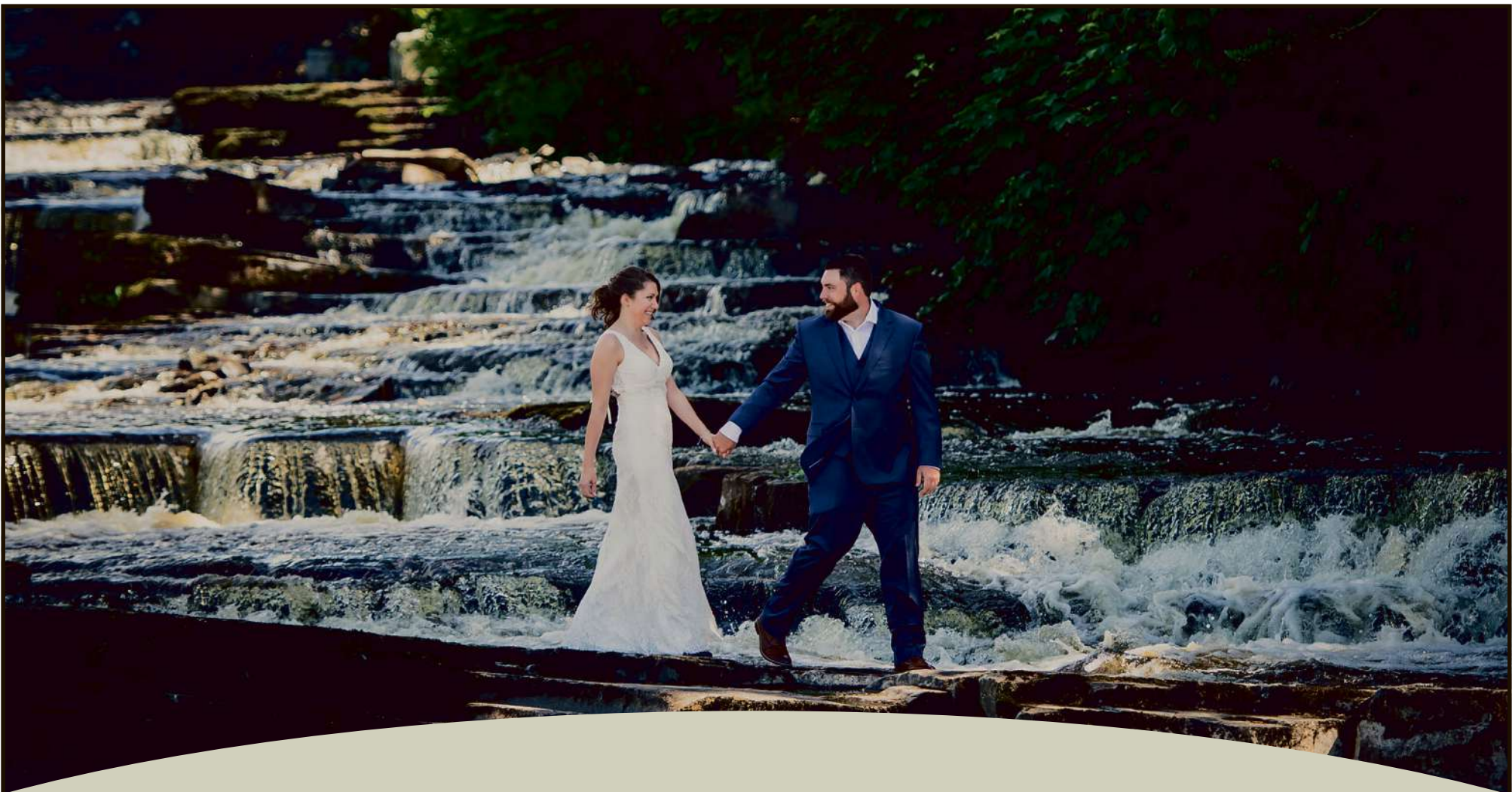
can cater for up to 350 guests at its largest.

The Riverview Suite is a smaller dining room that overlooks the river. It can cater for up to 50 guests and is a lovely room for wedding parties and blessings or civil ceremonies.

The Falls Hotel & Spa can be contacted on 065 7071004 or at weddings@fallshotel.ie.



The grand stone facade and steps make for another wonderful photo opportunity



YOUR WEDDING
AT THE FALLS HOTEL & SPA...

Just Wonderful



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WEB: WWW.FALLSHOTEL.IE



FALLS HOTEL & SPA





xx

Abbey Court promises a fairytale ending

Award-winning hotel will ensure every small, personal detail is attended to

THE experienced wedding team at the Great National Abbey Court Hotel and Spa, Nenagh will show you their multi-award winning fabulous wedding facilities, gardens and various styles and set-ups during their annual wedding fair on February 25 from 2pm to 6pm.

Taking place on the day will be an exclusive bridal fashion show, mini menu tasting, Prosecco reception, signature cocktails, live music and giveaways as well the opportunity to meet the best wedding exhibitors around.

And to add sparkle to the diamond on your ring.... we are teaming up with SPIN South West to offer one lucky couple the chance to win their dream wedding reception at Great National Abbey Court Hotel and Spa for 120 guests. Eoin Fitz from Spin South West will be broadcasting live with the afternoon show on the day and the 'Spinis' will be there to greet you. Check out spin-southwest.com for more information"

There is also an exciting surprise special guest duo coming on the day.

The last couple of years proved to be a fabulous and rewarding time for us at GN Abbey Court Hotel,

Lodges & Trinity Leisure Spa and we are proud to be celebrating winning the following awards:

Brides of Limerick Wedding Industry Award Wedding Venue Co Tipperary 2017

Mrs2be Brides Choice Awards Winner of Best Munster Venue 2017

Mrs2be Brides Choice Awards Finalist for Wedding Co-Ordinator 2017

Finalists in 5 Categories of Brides of Limerick Wedding Industry Awards 2017

Finalist for Hotel Venue of the Year Munster Weddings Online Awards 2017

Brides of Limerick Wedding Industry Award Best Garden Space 2016

Certificate of Excellence of Service from Tripadvisor for 2017 & 2016

"Thank you so much for all the help and support you gave us during the planning and execution of our magical day. Your wisdom is flawless"

Sarah & Michael

"I've been to so many great weddings in the Abbey Court Hotel so I knew the day would go smoothly, but my expectations were completely surpassed. The service was second to none...."

Claire & Sean

A breath-taking vision of exquisite elegance, the hotel captivates the guests with style, opulence and sheer romance. The team are dedicated to ensuring your celebra-

tion is a distinct reflection of your personality with every detail perfectly in order.

From the moment you and your guests arrive, the experience will be of warmth and welcome. The bride and groom will be invited to enjoy a glass of champagne and while your guests will be greeted by our wedding team and treated to a drinks reception.

The hotel's team of award-winning chefs are experts in catering for weddings of all sizes. The bride and groom may choose from a delectable assortment of dishes and set menus- or be creative and put together a customised menu. The bride and groom will get the opportunity to sample their wedding menu at their private meal tasting prior to their big day.

Your banquet meal will be served in The Baronial Hall which will cater

for any wedding reception 50 - 300 people. The ample chandeliers and stunning décor make it a very picturesque room for any wedding banquet or for a civil ceremony.

A speciality developed over recent years, is our Intimate Weddings which are perfect if your party is smaller or you choose the beautiful surroundings of the hotel to host your civil ceremony. Many couples choose to exchange their vows in the Orangery or in the summer outside in the mature Rose gardens. This can be followed by a dining setting in either our drawing room or dining room. You and your guests can then continue the perfect evening in the warm and welcoming surrounds of the Great National Abbey Court Hotel, Lodges & Trinity Leisure Spa.

The hotel is enveloped in our award-winning mature rose gardens which have water fountain features, courtyard garden ornaments, Trumpeter Roses and a further 60 varieties of flowers & plants. They are a stunning backdrop for wedding photography, arrival drinks, civil services and much more.

The hotel is enveloped by a picturesque surrounding, an exquisite ballroom, beautiful bridal suite and an abundance of spectacular settings such as our grand stairway, all of which together create beautiful memories for your wedding album.

The team at the Abbey Court Hotel continuously strives to find new ways of exceeding your expectations to make your wedding day a memory that will last forever.



Above, a bride enjoying her big day at the Great National Abbey Court Hotel and Spa in Nenagh, and above right, the award-winning mature rose garden which is an ideal location for all those memorable photos on your big day



GREAT NATIONAL ABBEY COURT HOTEL & SPA

NENAGH, COUNTY TIPPERARY

t: 067 42151 • **e:** weddings@abbeycourt.ie • **w:** www.abbeycourt.ie

WEDDING FAIR

25th February 2018 from 2pm-6pm

We are teaming up with SPIN South West to offer one lucky couple the chance to **WIN their Dream Wedding Reception at Great National Abbey Court Hotel.**

Spin South West will be broadcasting Live on the afternoon and the Spini's will be there to greet you. Tune into SPIN South West and check out spinsouthwest.com in February for more information.

Terms and Conditions apply



Take the stress out of the



Wedding bliss: Claudia wears a gorgeous wedding gown from The Bridal Emporium, Miltown Malbay and Bianca wows in a baby pink dress from Ela Maria, Newcastle West PICTURES: ADRIAN BUTLER



Bianca wears an off-the-shoulder floral dress, ideal for guest at the wedding, from Ela Maria, Newcastle West



Claudia, Emma and Bianca wearing dresses from Sinead's Boutique, Annacotty



Ladies at lunch: Claudia, Emma and Bianca wear dresses from Sinead's Boutique, Annacotty



dress on your big day



Chloe in a sumptuous wedding gown from The Bridal Emporium, Miltown Malbay



Chloe wears a figure hugging dress with stunning train from The Attic, Roches Street



Emma wears a dress from the Bridal Emporium, Miltown Malbay



Emma's dress is from Sinead's Boutique, Annacotty and Chloe wears a dress from The Bridal Emporium, Miltown Malbay



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Unforgettable Memories
AT THE

INN AT DROMOLAND

SPRING WEDDING OPEN WEEK & SHOWCASE

February 19th - 25th

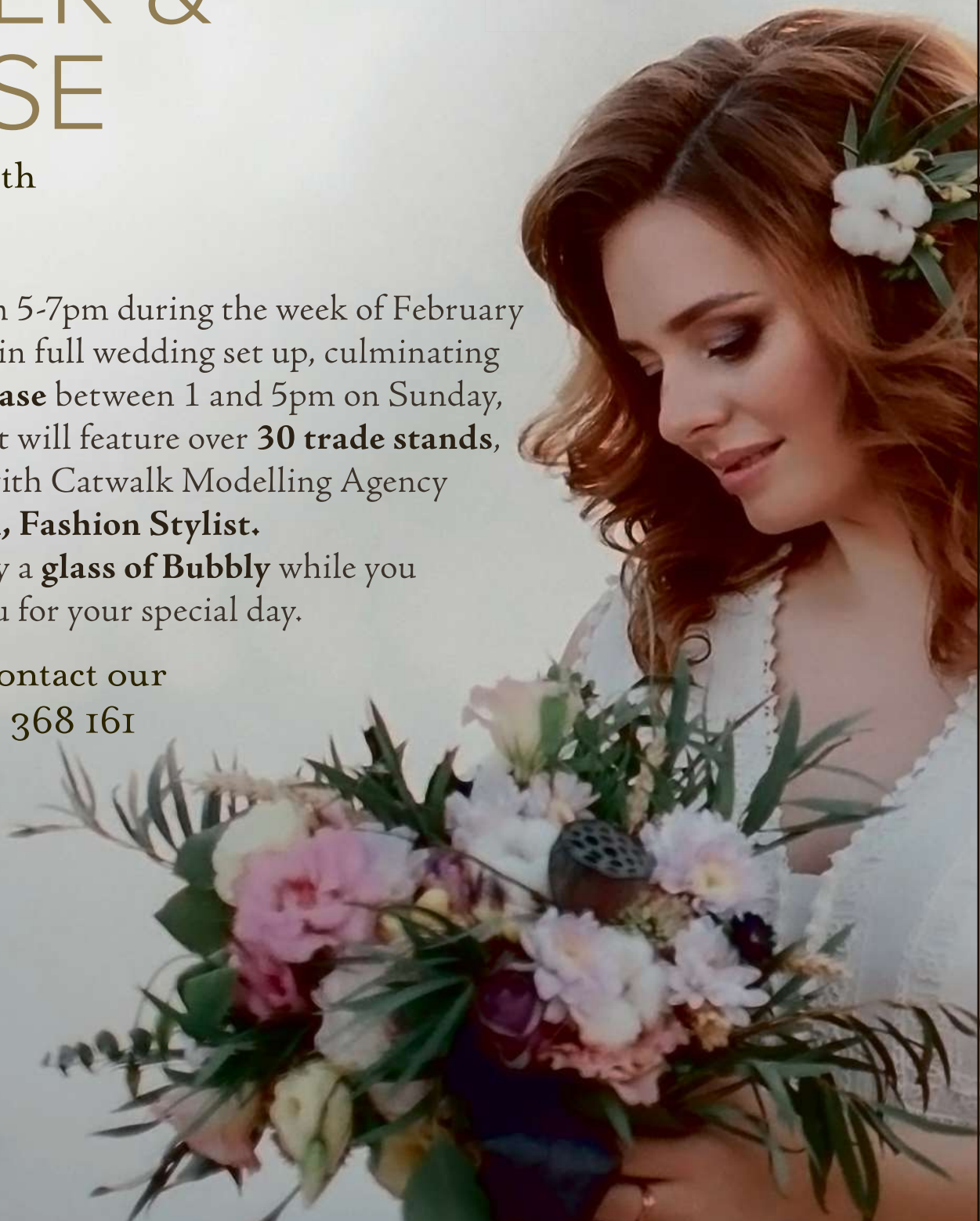
Visit **The Inn at Dromoland** from 5-7pm during the week of February 19th and view our wonderful hotel in full wedding set up, culminating with our **Spring Wedding Showcase** between 1 and 5pm on Sunday, 25th February. The Showcase Event will feature over **30 trade stands**, and a full **Bridal Fashion Show** with Catwalk Modelling Agency and presented by **Marietta Doran, Fashion Stylist**.

Sample our **Wedding Menu**, enjoy a **glass of Bubbly** while you explore everything we can offer you for your special day.

To book your viewing please contact our
Wedding Coordinator on 061 368 161



THE INN AT
DROMOLAND



Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare, Ireland. T: +353 61 368161
E: info@theinnatdromoland.ie www.theinnatdromoland.ie

"The ultimate wedding day requires a truly unique location, exceptional preparation and dedicated service ..."

**"450 ACRES
Dedicated
TO YOUR DREAM"**



With Dromoland Castle's unique backdrop and historic setting, the Castle is regarded as one of the finest wedding venues that Ireland has to offer, situated in the beautiful Co Clare on the West Coast of Ireland. Our dedicated wedding coordinators, work closely with Dromoland's Executive Chef, Sommelier & Management team to assist in your wedding planning from your first visit. We are delighted to help with each step of the planning & offer advice and assistance on everything from flowers to menus, place settings, fun & creative ideas. Most importantly we wish to assist in making your fairy-tale wedding dream come true.

Newmarket - On - Fergus, Co. Clare, Ireland. T: +353 61 368144. W: www.dromoland.ie



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CASTLE**

DISTINCTION SINCE 1543

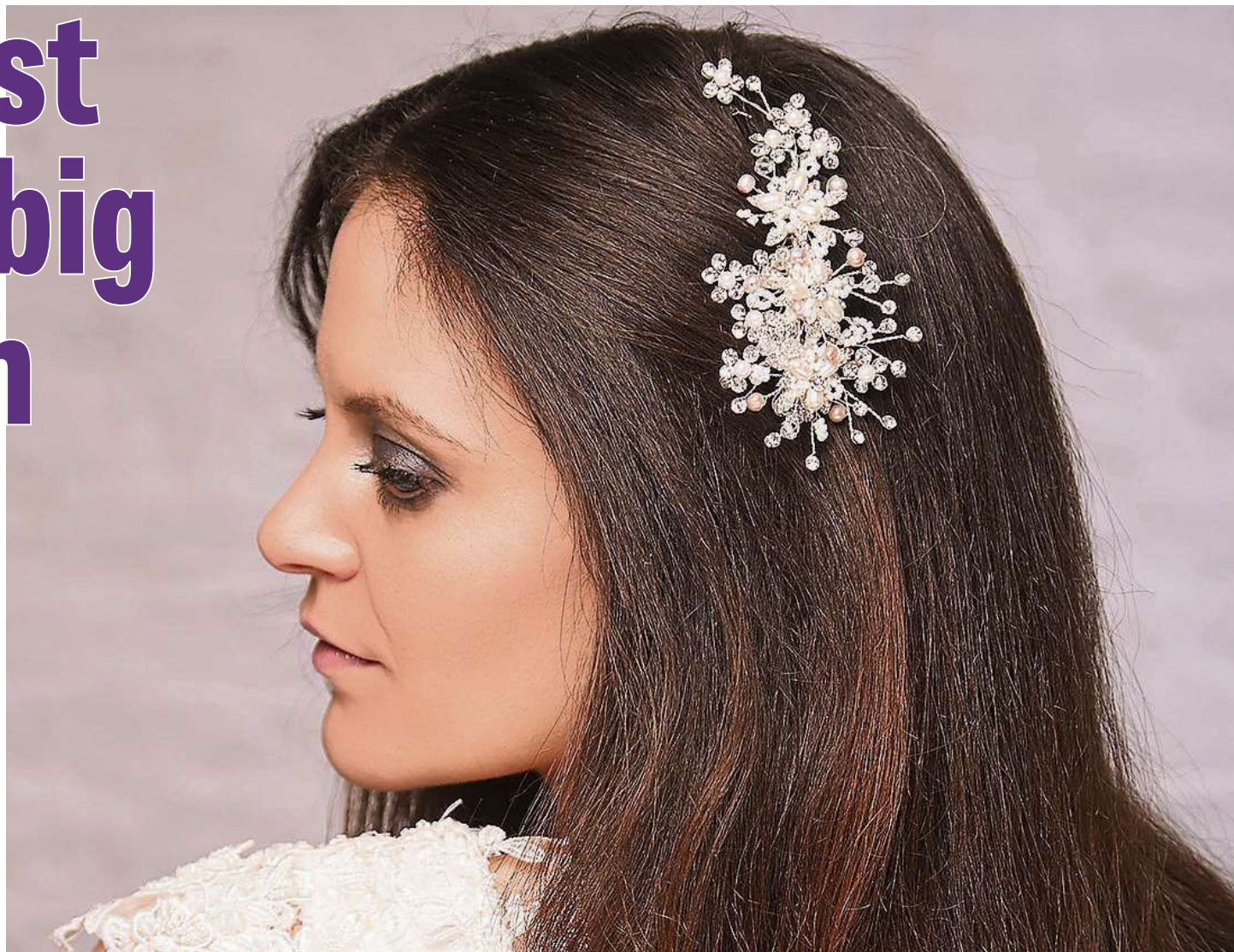


Specialist for the big occasion

RYANS Jewellers have been very lucky over the last 50 years to be part of customers big occasions, sharing the excitement of engagement time, to when she says "I Do" and even continuing to dress their little girl for communion! So it goes without saying that marking special family days are what they specialise in - but they have recently added to the sparkle with a full selection of Azure Bridal & Communion headpieces that are handmade in Cork and just give that finishing touch that all girls look for.

Ryans Jewellers are thrilled to be hosting Audrey Lehane from Azure for special bridal/communion one to one consultations on Saturday March 3rd, - it is by appointment only so call 061 417828 to book your time-slot or email sales@ryansjewellers.ie to make sure you don't miss out!

Come in store at Ryans Jewellers, 44 Roches Street or visit the website www.ryansjewellers.ie



RYANS

— JEWELLERS —

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In-Store Bridal Event

Saturday March 3rd 10.30am - 4.30pm

One to One Consultations with Azure Jewellery
on Bridal, Bridesmaid and Communion
headpieces & jewellery



f BY APPOINTMENT ONLY CALL 061 417828 TO BOOK OR REGISTER ON WWW.RYANSJEWELLERS.IE **f**



Crystal Star Flower Comb €120



Communion Pins from €10
Headpieces From €45



Ela Hairband €195



Say 'I do' to The Charleville Park

THE Charleville Park Hotel offers couples a stylish and luxurious venue for wedding ceremonies, with its crystal chandeliers, mood lighting and fairy light backdrop.

The hotel's light and airy Civil Ceremony Suite, Osprey Lounge and newly refurbished Bridal Suite are ever so popular with couples. The wedding team, including their award winning wedding coordinator Barbara was on hand at last weekend's wedding fair to lend their experience to newly engaged couples, to show them the hotel which was set up as it would be on a wedding day and to discuss the hotel's exclusive wedding packages and offers.

The Charleville Park Hotel Wedding Fair included three amazing fashion events, with models from The Holman Lee agency and bridal fashion for the bride to be, her mother and her bridesmaids. There was a selection of stands in attendance including wedding cars, stationary, photographers and much more. For those who couldn't make the wedding fair, it will be followed by an exclusive Wedding Evening Showcase which takes place on Thursday, February 15 from 5-8pm.

The Charleville Park Hotel is fast becoming one of Munster's most highly regarded wedding venues, they were recently awarded Best Wedding Venue (Co Cork) at the

Brides of Limerick awards, and were a finalist in the Mrs2Be Wedding Awards. The quality of service that the hotel offers combined with the dedicated staff, fine food and unique features and special touches that make a wedding day so special were the main reasons that the hotel received so many positive reviews from couples.

Recently engaged couples can meet this award-winning wedding team on Thursday, February 15 from 5-8pm.

For more information on the upcoming Wedding Events and how you can win a fabulous Grace Diamonds engagement ring visit charlevilleparkhotel.com.





The perfect venue for your perfect day!

FOR almost 30 years, Castle Oaks House Hotel has had the pleasure of hosting hundreds of weddings, lavishing attention on all their wedding Couples and their families and friends on the most important day of their lives.

The hotel has rightfully earned its reputation as one of Munster's Premier Wedding Venues.

Ideally located in the picturesque village of Castleconnell, Co Limerick, on the borders of Tipperary, Clare and Limerick, the Castle Oaks is a unique and charming Georgian Country Manor House set in 26 acres of manicured gardens and romantic woodland walks that sweep down to the banks of

the majestic river Shannon. The hotel expertly combines the highest possible standards of food and service with traditional "Olde World" charm and hospitality! They are proud to have been the recipients of two coveted awards this year, namely the Brides of Limerick Best Country House 2017 and RSVP Best Manor House 2017.

The elegant Stradbally Suite, with its unique Stained Glass Windows, parquet dance floor and picturesque garden views can host up to 280 guests. Adjacent to the Banqueting Suite is a private Patio area with stunning views of the River Shannon.

Our Romantic location by the Banks of the river Shannon provides a spectac-

ular setting for your perfect day. The breath-taking views of the mature, award winning gardens with riverside backdrop provide the ideal location for all of those memorable photographs on the day, no matter what the weather is like! There's no need to stop on the way!

The centrepiece of this stunning location is the charming Country Manor House. Built in 1780, the manor is of typical Georgian architectural design, and has been carefully restored to its former elegance.

Walking through the doors, the original Georgian features are abundant, from the beautiful fanlight doorway and decorative coving, to the stunning Sweeping Staircase.



The Castle Oaks House Hotel, expertly combines the highest possible standards of food and service with traditional "Olde World" charm and hospitality!

Castle Oaks House Hotel is set on 26 acres of beautifully mature gardens that sweep down to the banks of the majestic river Shannon. While your guests sip Champagne on the terrace, your photographer works their magic. The sweet smell of roses from the Rose Garden

invites yet another beautiful portrait opportunity!

No matter what time of the year, the grand old trees in the Romantic Woodlands offer a stunning alternative for your Wedding photographs. Stroll through the trees to where the fairies live as you make your way to the river bank.

Where the garden and woodlands end and your most stunning backdrop begins, flows the Majestic River Shannon. Venture out onto the Stepping Stones to create a unique photo opportunity. And the resident family of Swans are always happy to get into shot if they're home!

Castle Oaks House Hotel

Come Visit,
You Might Just Fall In Love...
A Dream Location for your Wedding Day!

Stepping through the front door reveals an elegant residence of real intimacy and charm, combined with tranquil vistas of the surrounding landscape and private grounds on the banks of the River Shannon.



Castle Oaks House Hotel, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick
Web: www.castleoaks.ie | Phone: 061 377666 | Email: weddings@castleoaks.ie



Kirsty Lynch, a diamond and wedding band specialist at Matthew Stephens. The store has a team of experts to help you choose the special rings to say 'I do' with – or design your very own with the newest technology and the store's Master Goldsmith

Choosing your special sparkler

Diamond specialists explain what you need to know before buying

MARIA FLANNERY

e-mail: maria.flannery@limerickleader.ie
Twitter: @mariaflann

WHEN it comes to choosing a diamond ring, it can seem like the possibilities are endless.

There's a host of considerations that need to be contemplated, like cut, colour, clarity and size.

But the whole experience needn't be overwhelming. The diamond experts at Matthew Stephens are on hand to offer their advice on everything you need to know about choosing that special diamond.

"We'd always advise customers to buy the best quality, it's something that they will have forever," said Matthew Ryan, of Matthew Stephens.

"You want something that is made to last and can stand the test of time into the future, which might be 30, 40 or 50 years of constant wear."

COLOUR

Many people don't realise that most of the world's diamonds are naturally tinted slightly yellow (these are categorised to be in the colour range: I-Z).

Matthew Stephens only uses white diamonds (colour H) or the even rarer and whiter F-G dia-

monds.

At the top of the colour scale, 'exceptionally white' diamonds (D-E) can also be viewed at Matthew Stephens when making that special decision to pop the question.

CLARITY

Most diamonds have obvious inclusions. These are black flecks or crack-like marks inside the diamond. The level of inclusion in a diamond is also measured on a scale, from I (included) to SI (slightly included) all the way up to perfect, flawless diamonds, which are extremely rare.

Matthew Stephens only buys certified diamonds that are 'flawless to the naked eye' (VS1-VS2: very slightly included) and better. These are perfect-looking diamonds to the naked eye – any inclusions are only visible under intense magnification. Some certified diamonds in store may be higher or lower on the scale – the experts will help for what's best for your budget.

CUT

The diamond specialists at Matthew Stephens say that the cut is "possibly the most important factor, as it gives a diamond life and sparkle".

A diamond could be very high in colour and clarity, but a poor cut could leave it dead and lifeless.

"When choosing our diamonds, we only look for diamonds that are cut well so that they have maximum

light return and have an incredible sparkle – ideally diamonds that sparkle from across the room," said Matthew Ryan.

"We are very particular about cut, especially as our diamonds sit beside Hearts on Fire – the world's most perfectly cut diamond."

Diamonds need to be cleaned regularly to keep them sparkling. There is no point investing in a beautifully cut diamond if it's not cleaned on a regular basis. Matthew Stephens recommends cleaning your diamond weekly.

CARAT

The higher the carat weight, the rarer the diamond, so larger diamonds are more valuable. The bigger it is will also affect the sparkle – larger diamonds refract more light, and sparkle more. Diamond prices increase exponentially; a tiny increase in size sees a big price increase.

These days, it's popular to add a 'halo' of smaller diamonds around a main centre stone, which can give the diamond a much bigger overall look for a minimum cost. Matthew Stephens stocks diamond rings in every carat weight. This variety means that you can find something at a broad price point, from approximately €700 all the way up to the tens of thousands of euro.

MATTHEW STEPHENS

The Jewellery Design Centre at the city jeweller boasts a full CAD-CAM Design suite, which allows customers to design the ring of their dreams, and make their vision into a

sparkling reality.

"The team dedicates a lot of time to perfecting the range and now we now boast an incredibly wide selection of the most beautiful styles using only the finest quality of metals and diamonds," said Ann Sinnott, a senior Diamond and Wedding Band Specialist with Matthew Stephens.

Mr Ryan said: "The newly expanded first floor 'Wedding Ring World' arguably has the widest selection in the whole country and we have couples travelling from far and wide to buy their bands with us. With over 1,000 different styles in varying metal types including yellow gold, rose gold, white gold, palladium and platinum, choosing the perfect wedding band to symbolise your love and affection on your wedding day has never been so effortless."

He advises against buying diamonds abroad or at non-reputable dealers, as the diamonds may be fracture-filled, and you may encounter other issues further down the road. "When buying your wedding bands, you are buying your future heirlooms to pass on to your next generation."

Matthew Stephens Jewellers offers all of its wedding couples a beautiful coin to commemorate their special day. All wedding rings purchased there are engraved free of charge by the store's in-house Master Goldsmith and polishing up your engagement ring to ensure that it is sparkling for your special day is all part of their award-winning service.



The first floor Diamond and Bridal Suite, at Matthew Stephens in Limerick city

Find Your Perfect Wedding Ring...



at IRELAND'S FINEST DIAMOND DESTINATION

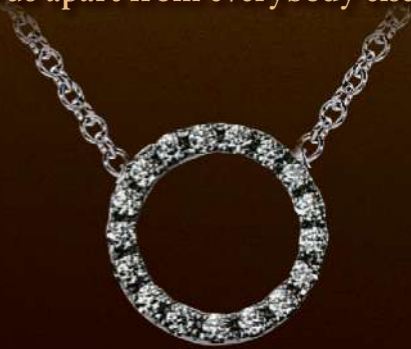
Find your perfect Wedding Ring with Matthew Stephens - the 3 Level Luxury Engagement & Wedding Band Destination Store, renowned for Ireland's widest selection of the finest quality Diamonds and Wedding Bands.

Sit in comfort and privacy in Ireland's only *WEDDING RING WORLD* while you design your own ring. Choose from our extensive range of fine Diamonds with our experienced Diamond experts, brought to you at unbeatable prices.

Not only do we use only the finest Diamonds and precious metals, it's the way that we carefully make our rings that set us apart from everybody else.

Our Gift To You

With every order placed during the month of February receive a Free sparkling pendant for each of your Bridesmaids.



LUXURY DIAMOND SUITE



WEDDING RING WORLD

MATTHEW STEPHENS

The Diamond Specialists

Tel: 061 415583 www.matthewstephens.ie





Make your appointment for The Inn

Make this wonderful country estate yours for your perfect wedding day

NESTLED on the 450 acres Dromoland Estate and overlooking the panoramic Shannon Estuary, The Inn at Dromoland is the ideal venue for your wedding day celebrations.

Part of the Dromoland Castle family, Wedding Couples can expect the very highest levels of hospitality and service. The hotel aims to exceed every expectation, with the renowned service for which the hotel has long been known.

The Inn at Dromoland offers a wonderful Private Garden area overlooking Dromoland Castle Estate and Lake – ideal for post wedding photographs, for the exclusive use of Bridal Parties.

Wedding Packages start from €42 per person. Each package has been carefully selected to ensure that your wedding day will linger in the memory of your guests for years to come.

The Inn at Dromoland has been approved by The Registrar's

Office as a suitable venue to accommodate civil marriages and partnerships.

Date for your Diary: Spring Wedding Showcase and Open Week - Visit The Inn at Dromoland from 5-7pm during the week of February 19 and view this wonderful hotel in full wedding set up, culminating with their Spring Wedding Showcase between 1 and 5pm on Sunday, February 25.

The Showcase Event will feature over 30 Wedding Trade Stands, along with a full Bridal Fashion Show with Catwalk Modelling Agency and presented by Marietta Doran, Fashion Stylist.

Sample the Wedding Menu, enjoy a glass of bubbly while you explore everything The Inn at Dromoland can offer you for your special day.

To book your viewing, please contact Claire, Wedding Coordinator on 061 368161. Pre booked appointments will receive a special offer on the day.



Spring Wedding Showcase and Open Week - Visit The Inn at Dromoland from 5-7pm during the week of February 19



Experience the bespoke styling of the Dunraven

THE Dunraven Arms Hotel is one of Ireland's most exclusive wedding venues.

Our highly experienced and dedicated team will ensure that your special day runs smoothly and to plan. Being privately owned, Louis and Hugh Murphy with their highly skilled staff, will ensure personal attention is given every step of the way. Menu tastings, bespoke styling and only one wedding on the day ensures you get that special treatment to the highest standards. We offer the choice of our gardens or our Clonshire Suite for Civil or Humanist ceremonies, in addition to the spectacular choice of churches in Ireland's most beautiful village.



The recently opened new conservatory and redesigned beautiful gardens offer the perfect setting for your truly special wedding reception. Our new Bridal Suite with amazing views of the gardens is an oasis of elegance and comfort.

Our newly refurbished bedrooms give your guests the feel of classical comfort in

one of Ireland's most famous 4 star hotels.

Twice awarded GC Hotel of the Year, one of only three venues in Munster to be awarded Venue of the Year, 2017 by the award winning One Fab Day website.

For more information ring 061 605900 or visit the website www.dunraven-hotel.com



The Dunraven Arms Hotel newly refurbished bedrooms give guests the feel of classical comfort in one of Ireland's most famous 4 star hotels

Be Part of Something
EXCEPTIONAL



New York Times
"Blissful Comfort"



A warm welcome awaits you.....

Experience the elegance of the Dunraven Arms, the beautiful gardens, our stunning bridal suite and all Adare has to offer your exclusive guests.

**Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.
T: 061 605 900 W: www.dunravenhotel.com**



Wedding bliss at the Mid-West Bridal Expo



Feast your eyes on some of the great dresses from the recent Mid-West Bridal Expo at the University of Limerick. Pictured above are Claudia Daly wearing a dress from The Attic, Oral Shiel modelling a dress from Lilac Rose, Sarah Cregan wearing a dress from Ban Bridal and Ciara O'Halloran in a design from Virginia's Bridal. PICTURES: ALAN PLACE



The Bridal Emporium

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065 7084164
www.thebridalemporium.ie



All your wedding day needs under one roof at the Bridal Emporium

THE award winning Bridal Emporium on Main Street, Miltown Malbay has been taking care of bridal needs from all around the country where they pride themselves on their friendly and professional service. They have been successfully trading now for over 13 years.

They have won top awards for Best Bridal Shop nationwide with the Brides Limerick magazine and wedding diary, wedding journal and many more also winning overall Wedding Business of the Year 2015 and 2017 with the Brides of Limerick magazine

Featured on Tv3's Ireland AM, and RTE's The Today

show with Maura and Daithi, The Bridal Emporium love to make dreams come true. They give each and every bride the most intimate, personal and memorable experience, whilst searching for their unique wedding dress at their Designer Bridal suite. They pride themselves on their friendly and professional service.

They stock international wedding dress labels from some of world's leading Bridal Dress Designers. You can rest assured, that you are in the best possible hands in your search for your dream wedding dress! Their private viewing areas and range of dresses helps you make an informed choice in complete

privacy. They have over 300 dresses available and a large selection of bridesmaids, with an excellent selection of accessories, headpieces, veils and much more you will not need to go anywhere else. They cater for all shapes and sizes and have an exclusive plus size range now in store

The Bridal Emporium is open by appointment Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm. When you book your appointment, they will dedicate to you, your own personal bridal consultant who will offer their advice. With a relaxed atmosphere, their shop is among the most luxurious in the country ensuring the ultimate wedding dress shopping experience.

The Bridal Emporium

MILTOWN MALBAY, CO. CLARE

Stunning Bridal Gowns • Bridesmaids Dresses • Bridal Accessories & Veils



Make it Special

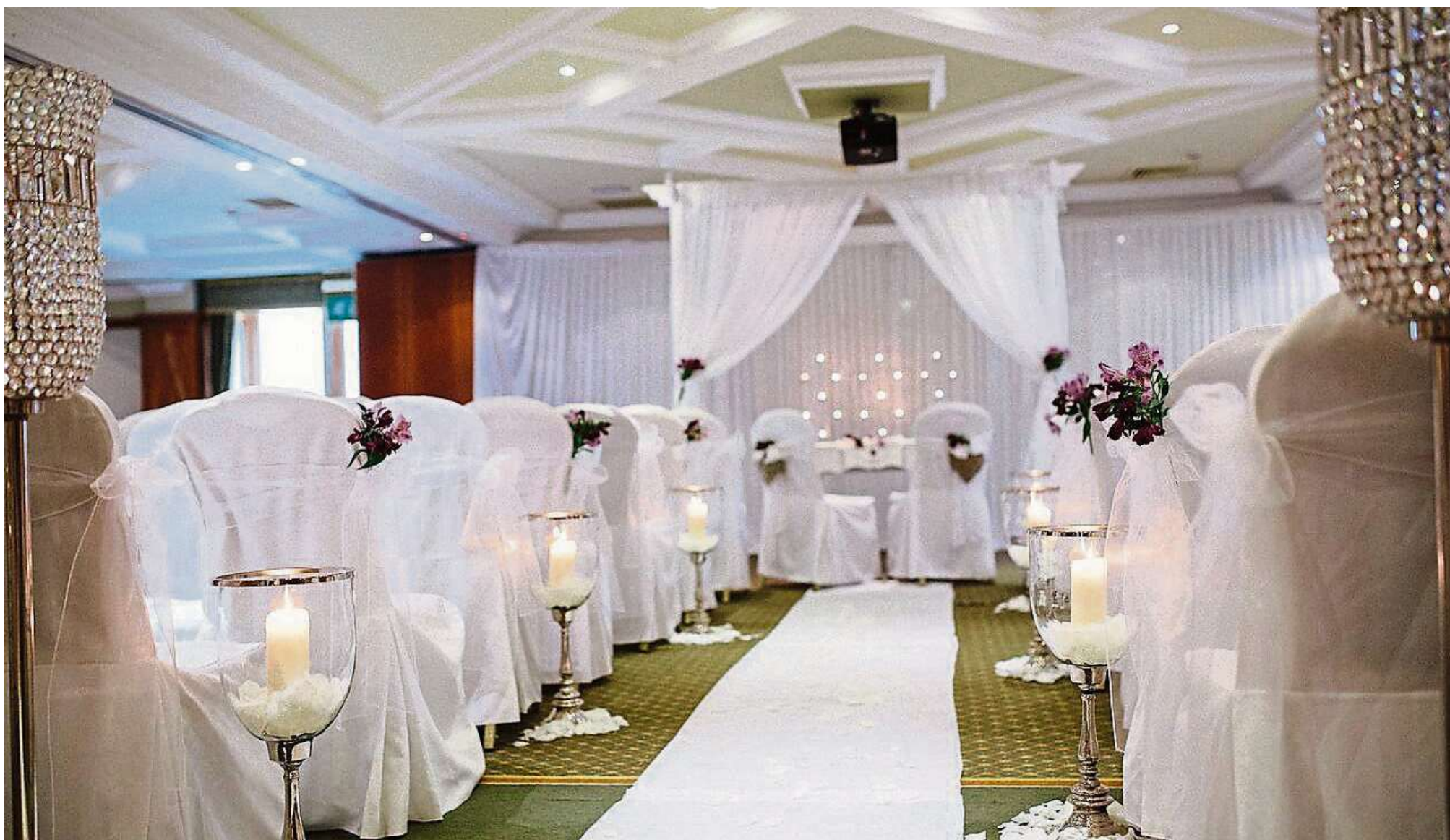
065 7084164

www.thebridalemporium.ie



Check out our Facebook page **The Bridal Emporium** to see our monthly offers





The splendid function room at Bunratty Castle Hotel is perfect for civil ceremonies

Why not get the royal treatment from Bunratty Castle Hotel?

AS one of the leading wedding venues in Munster you can be assured that the Bunratty Castle Hotel will meet all of your expectations and more.

We understand that when it comes to wedding celebrations, creating the perfect event is essential. It is your wedding your way at the Bunratty Castle Hotel and we would love to work with you to create a customised individual package based on your specific requirements.

From the moment you walk through our door at Bunratty Castle Hotel you will experience a warm wel-

come, gracious hospitality and personal service.

Our reputation for good food and friendly service, as well as high standards and attention to detail, will ensure you have a memorable day. Bunratty Castle Hotel offers one of the finest and most unique wedding venues in Ireland.

The hotel is nestled in the historic heart of the village of Bunratty, famous for the 15th Century Bunratty Castle and all its charm and romance. Our dedicated wedding coordinator will be delighted to meet with you and guide you through the tour of our ban-

queting suite, luxurious bedrooms for your guests, and bridal suite for you and your loved one along with our spa and leisure experience.

The expertise of our professional team at Bunratty Castle Hotel will ensure that you and your guests are free to enjoy the most memorable day of your life.

Bunratty Castle Hotel has recently picked up the "4 Star County Clare Wedding Venue of the Year" & David Shelly, General Manager picked up Outstanding Hotel Manager Awards at the Brides of Limerick Wedding Awards.



DIAMOND LIMOS

Arrive in style with Diamond Limos



Diamond Limos based in Raheen have a variety of vintage autos to choose from

WITH showrooms on the Church Road, Raheen, Diamond Limos have a selection of wedding cars to suit your needs and style. Diamond Limos offer 10 vintage cars of differing types and colours to choose from. All cars come with cham-

pagne, ribbons and an umbrella. Also Diamond Limos offers three limos with different interiors and colours also two stretched Hummers. Their showroom is open for viewing by appointment only, Please phone Pat on his mobile

phone 086 6030380 for an appointment, or email him at wedweddingcars@gmail.com. Diamond Limos also do the party bus for hens and stags for up to 16 people. Visit there www.weddingcarslimerick.com for more details.

THE KINGSLEY

Be treated like royalty

BRIDES and grooms-to-be dreaming of a chic city wedding will love what The Kingsley has to offer. Stylish and contemporary interiors, sleek design and excellent service right in the heart of Cork city, making it the ideal wedding venue for a discerning duo.

Visit The Kingsley in Cork for a wedding afternoon with the experts on Sunday February 25 2018 from 12.30pm - 5pm, and experience the hotel set up for an elegant city wedding.

The finest photographers, stationers, wedding planners, make-up artists, bakers, department stores, and musicians will gather together and showcase their top services designed to create the perfect wedding day.

Wedding experts on the day will include wedding planners To Have & To Hold and Enchanting Events, Brides of Eire bridal wear, Baker Boy Cakes, Gerard Kearney magician, John Sexton photography, music by Fiona Kennedy, florists Flower Power and Wonderful Weddings, videography from Captured



The Kingsley Wedding Showcase will take place on February 25 from 12:30 to 5pm

Occasions, Sirius Productions and Studio Plus Video Productions who will all be on hand to offer advice for future brides and grooms.

The afternoon will also be an opportunity to see the hotel's ballroom, the classically handsome Deane-Woodward Suite, perfectly appointed for a glamorous big day.

At The Kingsley weddings are delivered with impeccable style and attention to detail and the Wedding

Showcase will gather together the finest to showcase their top services.

For further news and updates about the upcoming Wedding Showcase at The Kingsley on Sunday February 25 from 12.30pm - 5pm, visit the website www.thekingsley.ie, follow The Kingsley on Twitter @KingsleyHotel or contact the dedicated wedding team on T: +353 (0)21 480 0500 or E: events@thekingsley.ie

Diamond LIMOUSINES

CHURCH ROAD, LIMERICK



SELECTION OF WEDDING CARS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS AND STYLE

All cars come with Champagne, Ribbons and an Umbrella

- 10 Vintage Cars of differing types and colours -
- 3 Limos with different interiors and colours -
- Also 2 Hummers -

SHOWROOM IS OPEN FOR VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please phone Pat on 086-6030380 for an appointment

Email: wedweddingcars@gmail.com

THE PARTY BUS FOR HENS AND STAGS FOR UP TO 16 PEOPLE!



celebrate | IN THE CITY

Wedding Showcase
Sunday February 25th, 12:30 - 5pm




Meet your dedicated Wedding Team

Light refreshments will be served throughout the afternoon. Admission is complimentary.

For more information email events@thekingsley.ie or phone 021 480 0500

The FOTA Collection

HOTEL SPA HEALTH CLUB RESIDENCE
The Kingsley, Victoria Cross, Cork, Ireland. www.thekingsley.ie

Find us on   

The changing face of Irish weddings

They remain the most special of occasions but weddings in Ireland are changing. Six out of 10 people would go abroad for one, while one in 10 won't even leave their own county! Meanwhile, one in five people have been at a wedding with its own website, no less!

When it comes to matters of marriage, opinions differ on the long list of dos and don'ts for bridal couples to be.

That's according to new research from gift card company One4all which delves into the psyche of wedding attendees in Ireland.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Before the 'I dos', bridal couples must decide where to celebrate their nuptials and according to the research carried out among 599 adults*, 37 per cent of those polled would travel anywhere for a loved one's wedding.

Some 61 per cent reveal that they

would travel outside Ireland with 59 per cent agreeing that a wedding abroad would be fun.

However, 11 per cent say they wouldn't travel beyond their own county to make the wedding of a loved one.

For those who do decide to wed abroad, three in 10 guests believe the bridal couple shouldn't expect to receive a gift.

BE MY GUEST...

Attending a wedding can be an expensive experience and the One4all research shows that wedding guests in Ireland spend an average of €186 on a present for the

bridal couple.

Other average expenses on the big day for guests include; €163 on a new outfit and accessories, €87 on drinks at the reception and €207 on accommodation.

But what do guests expect when they're invited to a wedding?

Food! A sit down meal is the item guests at a wedding most expect the bridal couple to provide, so say a total of 88 per cent of those polled.

Not just that, but 57 per cent surveyed expect second helpings to be served again later in the evening while just three per cent of adults in Ireland think a free bar should be provided at a traditional wedding reception.

TRADITIONAL OR TRENDING WEDDINGS?

In the age of social media, one in 10 people in Ireland reveal that they have attended a wedding with a social media hashtag.

Modern technology also makes its mark with one in five people having attended a wedding where the bridal party had their own website.

Social networking weddings may soon

be a thing of the past however with 16 per cent of those surveyed admitting that they would consider a social media ban for the wedding day.

For 21st century couples, tradition matters less, with one third of respondents revealing that wedding traditions don't matter and the majority (70 per cent) of those saying that weddings are best when they reflect the personalities of the bridal couple.

Commenting on the survey findings, group marketing manager for One4all Ireland Aoife Davey said: "The research shows that the majority of people in Ireland are willing to go above and beyond for the wedding celebrations of loved ones whether that means travelling abroad or splashing out on a generous gift, and wedding guests prefer personal weddings now more than ever.

***ONE4ALL RESEARCH CONDUCTED AMONG 599 IRISH ADULTS - 80 PER CENT FEMALE AND 20 PER CENT MALE**

E-JEWELS

Signature pieces that really sparkle

E-jewels Limerick is a family business of Irish diamond dealers that have companies in both Antwerp's Diamond Centre and Limerick. It is run by the father Jim (formerly of DeBeers, Shannon) and his daughter Sharon (a HRD Graduate), with the father operating the Antwerp business and the daughter running their Irish outlet.

E-jewels meet their clients by Private appointment in their Limerick showroom. Here, couples can sit down in a relaxed and friendly environ-

ment, where they can view rings at ease and can have an in-depth and personal consultation.

Couples can choose rings from their 'readily available' Enchanted Diamonds collection or alternatively, they offer a 'build-

your-own-ring' service,



whereby you

can select your ring setting, select a loose stone suitable to your budget and they will have it



set locally for you just as you would in Antwerp or New York!

They also offers a Bespoke, 'Design-your-own-ring service', whereby every element of your ring is unique to you.

You can view a selection of some of their rings on

For private appointment only: contact Sharon on (061) 348451 or 0871253285 or alternatively email her on sharonsstones@e-jewels.ie



Couples can either choose rings from our 'readily available' ring collection or design their own at E-Jewels



ANTWERP



IRELAND



ENCHANTED DIAMONDS

by e-jewels (Limerick)

Diamonds from Antwerp at Diamond Dealer Prices

(Up to 30% off high street prices)



"She'll love our rings - He'll love our prices"

www.e-jewels.ie - email: sharonsstones@e-jewels.ie

 www.facebook.com/ejewels.ie

061-348451

087-1253285



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LEISURE CLUB & LUXURY SPA

COUNTY CLARE'S NEWEST 4 STAR HOTEL



Wedding Venue of the Year 2017 in Co. Clare
Outstanding Hotel Manager 2017
Brides of Limerick Awards 2017

Fall in Love

with Weddings at Bunratty Castle Hotel

Check out our Newly Launched Fall in Love Wedding Packages

Our packages include The Something Borrowed, The Something New & The Something Blue packages that will cater for all your Wedding Day requirements. Call & see our newly refurbished Castle Suite with draped fairy light ceiling. Our Wedding Team will be happy to assist you in planning your Perfect Wedding Day.



BUNRATTY, CO. CLARE, IRELAND

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This fuschia pink wrap top is a beautiful choice for springtime

Wallis' spring/summer collection arrives in Limerick and it's full of floral prints and bright colours

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FASHION, FITNESS & HEALTH

STYLE AND FASHION



with Celia Holman Lee

The nautical look never goes out of fashion as this ensemble from Wallis proves



This floral suit from Wallis has laid-back cool all sewn up!



The trouser suit is back big time this season, and this pinstripe suit really makes a bold statement



I could see this white trouser suit making a huge impact on any red carpet - simply stunning!

LOOK OUT FOR CELIA'S 'MY WEEK' COLUMN IN THE LIMERICK LEADER EVERY THURSDAY

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This jumpsuit from Wallis ticks all the right boxes in terms of style and elegance

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MAN ABOUT TOWN

with Patrick
McLoughney

Choose well to tie outfit together

You've picked the suit, the shirt, the shoes, and even the belt... and now the hard part...

Far from one-size-fits-all, the wrong tie (in the wrong place, at the wrong time) can be just as bad for your look as any ill-fitting suit. So it pays to know your stuff.

For instance, did you know that your body type dictates the ideal width of your neckwear? Or that not all textures will fly in the office?

Or that the wrong pattern can make you look like a clown from *The Apprentice*? No? Well, read on and find out exactly how you should be wearing a tie and why doing so the right way is the easiest way to up your style game.

WIDTH AND LENGTH

Every well-dressed gent knows that one of the secrets of a good outfit is proportion. But while most know to pick a suit that matches their frame, it's a rule that's often forgotten when it comes to ties.

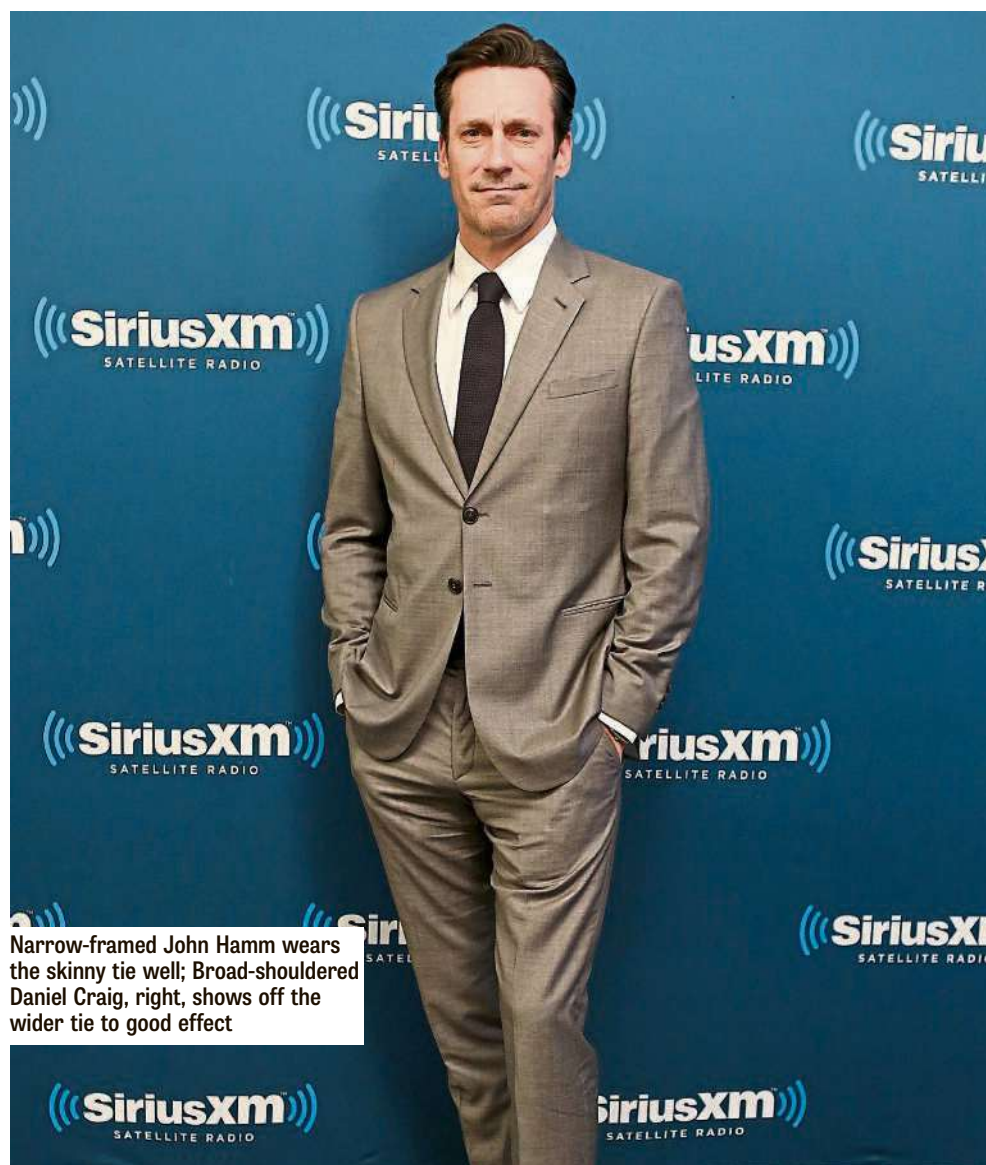
Different tie widths suit different body shapes. The correct tie should complement your suit and keep your outfit in proportion.

This can be achieved by matching the width of your tie to the width of your lapels (slim for slim, wide for wide), which will already have been matched to your frame.

A broad man should consider a slightly wider tie [around three inches] to match his larger shoulders.

Slim ties [usually around two inches] suit skinnier guys because it complements their [narrow] body type – just make sure your shirt collar is smaller in proportion, too.

As for the length of your tie, let your trousers be the guide. A tie should always hit



Narrow-framed John Hamm wears the skinny tie well; Broad-shouldered Daniel Craig, right, shows off the wider tie to good effect

the waistband of a trouser. Any lower and it'll get in the way, while too high looks cheap. And no, a clip-on tie is not the answer.

COLOUR

Like most things hanging in your wardrobe, colour is a major factor when deciding on a tie to wear. It's crucial to identify which hues work with your suit, your shirt, and also your skin tone.

The aim should always be for the tie to be at least one shade darker than the shirt it's paired with, but it is possible to make the whole process easier by keeping a few classic options to hand.

I'd always recommend sober, deeper shades [for ties] such as a blues or burgundy. Ties are a point of focus, so they're immediately noticeable and people often judge your character by them.

As for the shirt? You can't go wrong with crisp white, which makes a perfect blank canvas to set your chosen tie upon. If you're looking to start building a solid tie rotation, start with staple colours like navy and grey, which can be easily dressed up or down by your choice of shirt, then go beyond the normal by incorporating more saturated hues like green, yellow and red.

OCCASION

Knowing the occasion you are dressing for isn't just a style rule, it's a menswear commandment. Taking this into account with your tie can help avoid a cardinal sin.

Different ties suit different occasions, and they're subject to the same dress codes. As a general rule, silk ties in block colours are the most formal – hence why they are often sported in boardrooms – and as such don't lend themselves to much else than a suit.

In recent years, men looking to add a little flair to their tailoring have turned to knitted ties.

there's more opportunity to experiment – especially with a tie.

There are so many patterns, prints and textures to consider, but some combinations are easier than others.

(At first), stick to simple two-tone patterns like polka dots or stripes. These are much more muted in design, so are therefore easier to match with your shirt and tailoring.

You can also lessen the statement further by opting for a tonal look. For example, a navy suit, worn with a light blue shirt and a dark blue polka dot knitted tie.

For the more advanced



Owing to their more narrow design and squared-off end, these are less formal – and therefore versatile enough to be worn casually under a cardigan or even leather jacket.

In the case of black tie, the right necktie to wear is none. This isn't Hollywood, you're not a rock star or a movie producer – put on a bow tie.

PATTERNS AND PRINTS

You only need to look at the sheer number of men wearing sneakers with their suits to see that tailoring is a more relaxed affair than it was even five years ago.

That's not to say we should disregard what's worked for generations. It just means

dresser, striped ties can be a great way of introducing colour, as there are always at least two shades to work with.

Go for a muted base with a contrasting stripe to pop against classic tailoring. So if you're in your favourite navy two-piece, try a blue and yellow club tie. Of course, it makes sense to swerve some patterns altogether.

A couple of trickier choices include tartans and paisleys.

Although they're commonly seen in men's accessories, the colour combinations make it tough to match, and they can be disastrous when clashed with other patterns in the outfit.

FRAGRANCE OF THE WEEK

Vanille Fatale by Tom Ford

I've really been getting into my vanilla scents recently. Not the super sweet, old fashioned vanilla that often springs to mind, but an edgy, modern take on vanilla that is absolutely beautiful. The brand new Tom Ford Vanille Fatale Eau de Parfum, new to the Private Blend collec-

tion, is an absolute winner for me. I think this is a really unique take on vanilla. It is raw yet sophisticated and very intriguing from the first spritz. There's nothing sugar sweet about this. It is warm and smoky and masculine. It's creamy and smooth and super sensuous.

This is very wearable and not a loud fragrance. It settles into the skin very naturally. If you like your scents to stay close to your skin, this one could be for you. The top notes are saffron, coriander, myrrh and olibanum. The heart notes

are roasted barley, roasted coffee absolute, narcissus, frangipani and the base notes are Madagascan vanilla, mahogany, suede. The combination of vanilla and incense type notes works really well for me. It's creamy but not sweet and has the perfect amount of

earthiness to keep it interesting. The warm, woody base is made sexier with the addition of suede which gives it an animalistic rawness. If you like subtle and sophisticated fragrances, I recommend you give this a try. You'll find it in Brown Thomas for €262 (100ml).



FASHION, FITNESS & HEALTH

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LOOK OF THE WEEK

BT ensemble has classic appeal

This week's look of the week is a full outfit from Brown Thomas Menswear. This outfit is all about the jacket, which is a real statement piece, something every man should have at least one of in his wardrobe. The jacket is a Belstaff Mentmore Shearling Collar leather jacket, retailing for €1,495. The white tee is by Hugo Boss black and it costs €55, the jeans are Diesel Tapphar skinny jeans, retailing for €130 and the boots are Kurt Geiger Bennett Chelsea Boots and they retail for €135. Pop into Brown Thomas and check out the full Belstaff, Boss and Diesel range and have a look at the new SS18 collection in all our other brands while you're there.



WATCH OF THE WEEK

Seiko Prospex PADI Turtle (product code: SRPA21)

Seiko watches have always been making waves. Many professional divers actually use their watches at work. The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) is the world's leading scuba diver training organization. Both started out serving the diving industry in 1965, and to celebrate this special relationship, Seiko announced two Special Edition pieces for the Prospex collection: the Seiko PADI Kinetic GMT's Diver (SUN065) and the Seiko PADI Automatic Diver's (SRPA21). The PADI SRPA21 watch closely resembles the SRP79K1, which sports a similar blue and red ("Pepsi") bezel, with a few minor changes. The



movement is the same 4R36 automatic movement. The case is pure "Turtle". The cushion shape which defined this nickname looks like it means serious business. On wearing the watch, the impression of an awesome heft and purposeful ruggedness prevails. The case is matt finished, but feels smooth to the touch, like a pebble which is weathered the waves for ages. Even the scoring on the sides of the bezel to increase traction for gloved fingers are not sharp as some dive bezels can be. As a comparison, the Rolex Submariner comes to mind, whose bezel edges are more serrated than the

rounded grooves scored on the Seiko. Not the Seiko PADI. It feels smooth. The unidirectional click bezel is smooth to operate and with a light twist, it clicks easily. The clicks are not as distinct as with the Sub, but each is precise, and unmistakable. The hands are large, as a diver watch needs to be, and the markers very legible. The hands and markers have a thick layer of luminous material. Seiko does not specify, but it looks like the ubiquitous SuperLuminova. The lume glows very bright in the dark. The dial is also a deep blue hue, with what looks like an anodised finish with a beautiful play with light as it catches at different angles. You'll find this beautiful Seiko timepiece locally at Keanes for around €495.

MIKE O'CONNELL

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Avoiding late night snacking

ARE you an evening snacker? Trying to break the cycle of eating healthy all day and binging in front of the TV in the evenings? Here are some tips that might help.

1: IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUNGER AND BOREDOM

The first thing to remember here is if you are hungry - you need to eat! I am not a fan of "dieting", I believe developing a good relationship with food is far more important. If the evenings are your downfall for reaching for unnecessary treats and snacks, learn first to tell whether you are bored, whether its just a habit you need to break or whether you are actually hungry. In which case you need to feed your body.

2: SET A TIME FRAME IN PLACE.

Tell yourself going forward there's no eating after a certain time (eg. 8pm). The



Skipping meal can be as bad as munching the evening away

only way this can be deviated from is if you are having a late dinner. NEVER SKIP DINNER. But let dinner be

your last meal. Fill up on proteins and veg. Feel satisfied with clean food.

3: CHOOSE A HEALTHY SNACK
 If you really are feeling hungry - as opposed to feeling bored or doing it out of

habit - choose options that won't undo your clean eating day. I like to have a couple of tablespoons of Greek Yoghurt with a little Whey Protein and some chopped nuts mixed in for flavour as a "dessert" (it tastes as good as Angel Delight!). You could try some scrambled egg whites or cottage cheese too. Or some vegetable sticks with hummus. Don't go reaching for the cereal box. Cereal is often full of sugars (check the sugar content in the nutritional information) and not a good choice for a late night snack.

4: KEEP YOUR FOOD DIARY BESIDE YOU

By having your food log sitting there with you will probably be less likely to take trips to the fridge. Writing down what you eat each day makes it real and you'll probably opt for the cup of tea and leave the handful of biscuits where they are.

5: DISTRACT YOURSELF

Watching TV in the evenings can be the main cause of

a snack attack. Distract yourself in other ways. Take a walk with the dog, read a book or run a bath. If you do choose to watch TV there are ways you can "break the habit" by keeping yourself busy whilst doing so. Get to work on the foam roller to roll out any knots from your days workout, paint your nails, do some ironing! You may laugh but it works!

6: BRUSH YOUR TEETH

Once dinner is well and truly done, brush your teeth! It sounds simple but how often have you passed on something because you've just brushed your teeth and it would taste funny. I know I have!

Over-snacking is a problem for so many - including me at times. The main thing is to realise the difference between hunger and habit. Hunger must be fed, but habits must be broken. Hopefully you've taken something from this and one or two of these little tips will help.

WHAT I'M LOVING THIS WEEK



BEO Dublin and Laois

WE had a great time in Cork over the weekend at Beo in the Clayton in Cork City and had a great response from the 250+ ladies who came along on the day. The BEO organisers have two final dates of the current season on sale now so if it is something you think you want to get to see - get yours now! We will be in Dublin on February 25 and Laois on March 11 and really looking forward to the two more days of wellness and selfcare tips. For more information see www.beowellness.ie/events

HEALTHY RECIPE - Three Pancake Recipes

1: HEALTHY BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

What You Need

- 1/2 Cup Coconut Flour
- 1/2 Cup Gluten Free Oats
- 4 Egg Whites (1 Yolk)
- 3/4 Cup Unsweetened Almond Milk
- 1 Tsp Organic Vanilla Extract
- 1 Tblspn Flaxseed
- Blueberries (as little or as many as you like!)
- Coconut Oil

What To Do

Preheat your pan meting a little coconut oil. In a food processor whisk coconut flour, gluten-free oats, eggs, almond milk, vanilla extract and flaxseed. Make sure consistency is just right - i.e. not too thick and not too runny - you want it to sit in the centre of your pan.



Transfer mixture to a jug to pour into pan and gently mix in your blueberries.

Pour a portion sized pancake into the hot pan, allow to solidify and then flip.

When browned on both sides serve with toppings of your choice. We went with Greek Yoghurt and Agave for this one!

2: 4-INGREDIENT PROTEIN PANCAKE

What You Need

- 30-40g Gluten Free Oats (I blitz mine in a coffee grinder to make a flour)
- 1/2 scoop of Whey Protein
- 1 Egg
- Dash of Unsweetened Almond Milk

What To Do

Preheat a frying pan with coconut oil or low-calorie

spray.

Blitz the oats till they have a flour texture.

In a mixing bowl mix the oats, whey, egg and milk to a pancake batter.

Using a ladle pour a portion of the batter into the pan, allow the top to go solid and flip to brown the other side.

Repeat the process till the batter is gone - I usually get 2-3 small pancakes from this.

3: CHOCOLATE STACK

What You Need

- 1/2 Cup Coconut Flour
- 1/2 Cup Gluten Free Oats
- 1/3 Cup Raw Cacao
- 2 Tblspn Xylitol
- 4 Egg Whites (1 Yolk)
- 3/4 Cup Unsweetened Almond Milk
- 2 Squares 85% Dark Choc
- 1/4 Cup Raw Nuts (we used cashews, almonds and pecans)
- Coconut oil

For the chocolate sauce

- 1 Tsp Raw Cacao Butter
- 3 Tsp Raw Cacao

What To Do

Preheat your pan meting a little coconut oil.

In a food processor whisk coconut flour, gluten free oats, eggs, almond milk, raw cocoa and xylitol.

Transfer mixture to a jug.

Crush dark chocolate and nuts and set aside for sprinkling!

Pour a portion sized pancake into the hot pan, sprinkle with some crushed chocolate and nuts and allow mixture to solidify before flipping.

When toasted on both sides serve with chocolate sauce. To make the chocolate sauce simply melt some raw cacao butter and mix with cacao powder. Drizzle over the top of your pancake stack and sprinkle left over chocolate and nuts.



with **EVA HILL HAMILTON**

HEALTHYLIVING

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Special treat for Valentine's day

COOKING for someone can be the most romantic gift – any day. What you eat can directly impact your hormones, brain chemistry, energy and stress levels – hence to the outcome of the evening.

Natural aphrodisiacs are well worth exploring, as they not only serve romantic purposes but are packed full of superior health-promoting nutrients. I combined a few of the most famous ingredients to create a dessert that will tantalize your taste buds and scientifically proven to arouse desires with psychoactive components and aid blood flow to the genitalia.

1, AVOCADO

The Aztecs called the avocado tree Ahuacatl - meaning testicle tree as the fruits hanging in pairs on the tree resembles the male genitalia. The avocado is a supremely healthy superfood, very mineral dense, and contains the body's master antioxidant glutathione, as well

as a host of healthy carotenoids, heart-friendly monounsaturated oil, Vitamin E, good amounts of fiber, potassium and B6 - all essential for good circulation and hormone balance.

2, CACAO (THE REAL CHOCOLATE)

Pure raw cacao, the king of natural aphrodisiacs, contains a host of compounds including anandamide, the psychoactive feel-good chemical, and PEA (phenylethylamine), the 'love chemical' which releases dopamine in the pleasure-centers of the brain. It also contains tryptophan, the precursor for our happy hormone; serotonin, and 'nature's Viagra' – Arginine, that is converted into nitric oxide in the body, relaxing smooth muscles of the blood vessels thus increasing blood flow.

3, HONEY

Raw honey is a great source of boron, a trace mineral that helps the body use and metabolize estrogen. Studies have shown that this



In 2009, an Italian research group published a study that showed red wine drinkers scored 2 points higher on sexual appetite than other alcohol drinkers

mineral may also enhance testosterone levels in the blood. In addition, honey

contains B vitamins needed for energy production as well as other nutrients, enzymes

and phytochemicals bringing vitality to our body.

3, CHILIES

Chilies can fire you up in more ways than one. They contain the chemical capsaicin that can induce the release of endorphins to create a temporary high. Capsaicin also speeds up the metabolism and increases circulation. It ignites our internal engine and stimulates our energy for passion. Careful of the amounts used though, or you can end up spending the night in the outhouse...

4, VANILLA

When the Spanish conquistadors brought spicy vanilla back to Europe from the New World, it was considered a "hot" spice, and prescribed as a tincture to ensure male potency. Vanilla's aphrodisiac power is in its scent – studies showed it is particularly arousing to men, but it also elevates adrenaline, the hormone responsible for alertness and excitement.

4, RED WINE

Alcohol is known for its relaxing properties – taken in small amounts it up-regulates GABA, our "Zen" hormone and stimulates the hypothalamus, the so called "primitive brain" responsible for basic human functions. Red wine in particular has many health-giving properties thanks mostly to its cardiovascular system supporting resveratrol content. In 2009, an Italian research group published a study that showed red wine drinkers scored 2 points higher on sexual appetite than other alcohol drinkers, and 4 more points than teetotalers. Its histamine content correlates to an increased sex drive, however, despite its positives as a stimulant, histamine can also cause inflammation and hypertension in people who are highly sensitive to it.

To get the recipe, go to my website www.evahillnutrition.com and find this article in my library under "Superfoods". Happy Valentine's day!

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'Bridging the Gap'

Literary Festival to bridge the gap between authors and readers

THE Limerick Literary Festival 2018 in honour of Kate O'Brien will take place Thursday, February 22 until Sunday, February 25, 2018, for the thirty-fourth annual edition.

The event continues to honour the life and works of the Limerick author, whilst attracting prominent participants from all over the world. It continues to provide a platform where readers can meet their favourite authors and other readers. This year's theme is 'Bridging the Gap'.

Kate O'Brien, a world-renowned novelist and playwright, was born in Limerick in 1897. Her novels were some of the earliest examples of Irish literature to feature homosexual themes, which ultimately lead to them being banned on release under the Irish Free State's censorship laws.

The official opening of the Festival will take place at the Limerick City Gallery of Art on Friday, February 23 at 6pm and will be launched by Billy Keane, followed by a music recital with Mezzo-Soprano Martha O'Brien.

On Saturday, February 24, Deirdre Sullivan, Kit de Waal, Fergal Keane, Kevin Barry, Lisa McInerney and John MacKenna will also present a series of talks and readings about their work at the city gallery.

Blindboy Boatclub from The Rubberbandits will also be contributing to the festival and Dolans will be hosting an event called 'The Revolution will not be Spotifyed' as a part of the festival. This event will be held on Saturday, February 24 at 7.30pm.

Returning events to the festival include Desert Island books which will take place in The Belltable on Sunday, February 25 at 12 pm where Pat Shortt, Roisín Meaney, and Lisa Harding will discuss their three favourite books that they would take to a desert island. This will be followed by the Kate O'Brien Lecture, which will commence at

I love to walk hills and I also rock climb. I have climbed mountains throughout Ireland and abroad including reaching the summit of Mount Sinai in Egypt

-Limerick Rose
 Kayleigh Maher on her upcoming abseil

2pm in The Belltable.

New events at the festival this year include an evening with Stanzas at Chez Le Fab on Thursday, February 22, a graphic novel event at Ormston House as well as workshops from writers Sarah Moore, Dan Mooney and Donal Ryan at Narrative Four.

For the full line up visit www.limerickliteraryfestival.com.

Limerick Rose Kayleigh Maher to Abseil for ADAPT at Thomond Park

Limerick Rose Kayleigh Maher is to abseil down Thomond Park stadium in aid of ADAPT House domestic abuse services.

Kayleigh from Kilcornan, became the first Limerick Rose for a decade to feature on RTE's live shows in Tralee last year.

Kayleigh says: "I love to walk hills and I also rock climb. I have climbed mountains throughout Ireland and abroad including reaching the summit of Mount Sinai in Egypt and also scaling the highest climbing wall in Vietnam. I am honoured to take part in the Abseil for ADAPT event at Thomond Park to raise much needed funds and awareness for ADAPT."

The event will take place just a few hours before the official selection event for the 2018 Limerick Rose at the city stadium.

The 'Abseil for ADAPT' challenge takes place on Saturday 10 March, when participants can conquer their



Pictured at O' Mahonys Booksellers of the launch of Limerick Literary Festival 2018 running February 22 - 25, was Valerie Dolan, Dolans Pub, Carlan Wood, Jennifer Moroney Ward, manager Learning Hub and Tara Robinson PICTURE: OISIN MCHUGH TRUE MEDIA



Pictured at Thomond Park, Limerick Rose Kayleigh Maher with Angela Foley, Thomond Park and Conor Walsh, Limerick Rose Centre Coordinator. The Abseil for ADAPT takes place March 10

fear of heights and enjoy unique views of the iconic home of Munster Rugby, all while raising funds for ADAPT.

Over 40 participants have already signed up, including groups of sisters, cousins, friends and co-workers, all spurring each other on to

conquer their fear of heights. Rosbrien-based ADAPT Domestic Abuse Services is a voluntary organisation which provides support to women survivors of domestic abuse and their children across Limerick City and County.

To sign up for 'Abseil for

ADAPT' on 10 March, email Lorraine at fundraising@adaptservices.ie or call 061-412354. Full training will be provided on the day.

Thomond Park Stadium will host the Limerick Rose Selection Night on March 10. To apply visit www.ros-eftralee.ie/apply.

Limerick City and County Council win at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2018

Limerick City and County Council has won on the double at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2018.

The awards, which are in their 12th year, recognise and celebrate community and councils working together, highlighting and celebrating the work done by the local authorities and also volunteers within our communities, to reward our unsung heroes and recognise the phenomenal contribution they've made to our lives.

Following a rigorous judging process over 100 projects nationwide from 23 counties were shortlisted for the All Ireland Community Council Awards 2018 ceremony, which took place in Croke Park.

Limerick.ie won for Best Connected Council in Communications and Digital Marketing. The award highlighted the range of digital marketing and commu-

To see lots of great Limerick videos, look under the 'Media' section in our website, www.ILoveLimerick.com



Pictured at Croke Park Stadium at the All Ireland Community & Council Awards, Cllr John Sheehan, Laura Ryan, Limerick.ie, Mayor of Limerick Stephen Keary, Tom Walsh, Waterford Crystal and Mags Murray, Chairperson of LAMA. PICTURE: PAUL SHERWOOD



Pictured at Bobby Byrne's for the launch of the Torch Players 'The Constant Wife' playing at the Belltable from February 20 to 24, members of the cast of the show with director Maurice O'Sullivan (far right) PICTURE: SOPHIE GOODWIN/ILOVELIMERICK.

communications employed by the council in launching the revamped Limerick.ie as a new digital platform for businesses, visitors and locals. Limerick City and County Council worked with local media agency Piquant to devise a digital marketing and communications strategy that best suited the new platform.

Limerick City and County Council also scooped the award for Best Local Authority Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment for Limerick 2030: An Economic & Spatial Plan for Limerick, its blueprint for the development of Limerick city and county over the next 12 years.

Laura Ryan, Head of Marketing and Communications with Limerick City and County Council explained: "Our aim is to always present Limerick in a positive light, to give information about Council services, and be number one when searching

the internet for information on Limerick. We're delighted to have been recognised for our promotional efforts in showcasing Limerick's unique selling points." Congrats to all!

Torch Players bring 'The Constant Wife' to the Belltable

By [ilovelimerick](http://ilovelimerick.com) correspondent Chloe O'Keefe

Limerick drama group, The Torch Players present the highly anticipated play by W. Somerset Maugham 'The Constant Wife' at the Belltable from February 20 to 24.

Following the huge success of previous plays such as Bookworms, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and The Cripple of Inishmaan, the Limerick drama group are thrilled to be back with this charming play, set in the early 1920s, taking on topics such as marriage and infidelity with a quick-witted alternative way to deal with an

extra-marital affair.

The Torch Players play huge homage to their director, the great Maurice O'Sullivan who has claimed 40 best director awards and has set the Torch Players drama group up for 13 Irish finals since it was set up in 1976. Maurice speaks of how he evolved the group, "I was teaching, and doing plays in schools with kids, and they all left school around the mid-70s, and I met one or two of them on the street around September '76 and they said, 'Will you do a play with us?'"

Maurice says he chose The Constant Wife as the Torch Players latest production when he saw in the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin a few years ago and loved the play, and noticed how he could recreate it, as he felt he had enough strong females to cast, and that it was a "truly stunning play."

The multi-award winning director pays homage to his cast, and members from the

long-term members, to the newcomers that have joined the drama group more recently, and touches on the meaning of the Torch Players, through "passing the torch to the new members."

"The Constant Wife will play at the Belltable from Tuesday, February 20 to Sat February 24, commencing at 8pm each night. Tickets can be bought online at the limericktheatre.ie for €14 to €17.

And finally...

If anyone wants to keep tabs on what I am up to around Limerick, you can find me on Facebook as Richard Lynch and Twitter @Richanthon. If you have a good news story about Limerick I could share on this page, you can contact me via email at Richard@ILoveLimerick.com. Look forward to hearing from you!

Love to you all
Richard (Richanthon) x



Richard pictured with Pat Shortt at the Fresh Film Festival offices at St. Johns Square PICTURE: SOPHIE GOODWIN/ILOVELIMERICK

Pat's passion for Limerick's Fresh Film Festival

By [ilovelimerick](http://ilovelimerick.com) correspondent Ryan O'Connell

As one of Irish film and TV's biggest stars, Pat Shortt knows a thing or two about filmmaking. Born in Tipperary and now proud Limerick-resident, actor-comedian Pat Shortt has had an extensive career in film and TV. As a member of the Board of Directors of Fresh Film Festival, Pat Shortt is determined for the Irish film industry to burn brightly for years to come. Shortt says: "I'm very passionate about Fresh because I just think some of the ideas the kids have are incredible".

Founded in 1997, Shortt describes the Fresh Film Festival as a "huge, huge operation". The Festival, which has been running for over 20 years, only accepts entrants under the age of 18. Fresh Film Festival accepts short films on any topic, style or genre and runs various Young Filmmaker competitions including the Junior, Senior, and International awards. Fresh Film Festival is determined to give every child a chance to become one of Ireland's Young Filmmakers of the Year.

Shortt's involvement with the Fresh Film Festival board began on a night out. Jayne Foley, founder and Creative Director of Fresh Film Festival, as well as a friend of Pat, approached him, "I think that was eight to 10 years ago that that was the case. Jayne met me one night we were out and she said would you come along to a meeting we would love to see if you would come on the board".

Shortt spotlights the importance of the Fresh Film Festival in keeping the Irish film industry progressing as a major reason for his involvement, "Already, some of the young filmmakers down through the years have gone on to make features and gone on to college and become professional filmmakers and that's fantastic".

Shortt is trying to encourage as many young people as he can to enter, "It doesn't matter where you are in the country, and that's the great thing about Fresh. It's for all over the country".

As for the future of the festival, Shortt merely wants it to get the recognition it deserves: "I'd like to see it get more funding and recognition nationally as well from Irish film board and people like that to see the importance of it for a festival for kids that gives them a platform to show their films".

The Fresh Film Festival 2018 will take place from March 20-25, 2018. For more info visit www.fresh-filmfestival.net.

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All Ireland finalists wait on report of red cards

By **JEROME O'CONNELL**
e-mail: joconnell@limerickleader.ie
Twitter: @JeromeSport

NA Piarsaigh are to await confirmation of the referee's report before making any decision about appealing the two red cards issued in Saturday's epic All Ireland club SHC semi final.

Referee John Keenan of Wicklow sent-off Conor Boylan and Thomas Grimes inside the opening five minutes of the second half before 13 man Na Piarsaigh turned on the style to advance to another St Patricks Day final in Croke Park.

The red cards would rule the 2017 All Ireland U-21 winning duo out of the March 17 final against reigning champions Cuala.

As well as the two red cards, Na Piarsaigh also have an injury to Adrian Breen. Man of the Match in the 2016 All Ireland final win, Breen was forced off at half time on Saturday after sustaining an injury to his AC joint in his shoulder. The attacker could miss two weeks training but is expected to be fit for next month's final against the Dublin champions.

Na Piarsaigh's progress to the club final means that their players won't play any group games in the hurling league with Limerick.

But there are a few games to negotiate for some members of the Na Piarsaigh team ahead of March 17.

This Saturday (1.30) senior corner back Jerome Boylan will play in the Harty Cup final with Ardscoil Ris. The teenager will be wing back on the school side that plays Middleton CBS in the Munster Post Primary Schools Senior A Hurling Final in Mallow.

Jerome Boylan will also be among a group, containing red carded duo Grimes and Conor Boylan, that will play in Limerick Premier U-21 hurling championship as they bid to kick-start their quest for seven titles in a row at that grade.

This Saturday (7.00), attentions turns back to the Allianz Hurling League - Limerick v Dublin in the Gaelic Grounds.



Game time: Irish prop Dave Kilcoyne is set to feature for Munster this weekend against Cardiff, with a view to playing his way back into Joe Schmidt's this season

Kilcoyne set to feature for Munster in Cardiff

MUNSTER RUGBY UPDATE

By **COLM KINSELLA**
e-mail: ckinsella@limerickleader.ie
Twitter: @ckSportLeader

IRELAND prop Dave Kilcoyne looks set to get game-time for Munster in Saturday night's crucial Guinness Pro14 fixture with Cardiff Blues at the Arms Park, 5.30pm.

Kilcoyne picked up a knee injury during Munster's 48-3 victory over Castres Olympique in their Champions Cup tie at Thomond Park last month.

However, the 29-year-old Limerick man has recovered from the injury and is in the

running to feature against the Blues in the Welsh capital on Saturday.

Munster are also set to have out-half Ian Keatley and centre Rory Scannell released from Ireland 6 Nations camp for this weekend's fixture.

Munster report no fresh injury concerns from their bonus point win over Zebre at Thomond Park on Saturday night which saw Johann van Graan's side cement second place in the Pro14 table.

Dan Goggin and Dave O'Callaghan both made their PRO14 returns after long-term injuries in the game and

came through the fixture with no issues.

Saturday's game is the second of four Munster will play during the 6 Nations Championship period and head coach van Graan says he is happy with how squad members are grasping their opportunity to impress while the Ireland players are away.

Van Graan said: "We've got big dreams for this team for this year and going forward. We said from day one this is a squad effort and in order for yourself to play in the big games you need to perform in, let's call it the smaller games.

"So this four weeks is all about improving as a side and about guys deserving their opportunities.

"We'll make quite a few changes again for this weekend, use our squad and we've got two Friday games coming up after this one, which will be a short turnaround, so we need our whole squad.

"Guys will go up and down into the Irish squad and this is all preparation for the big games at the end of the season."

Van Graan visited the Ireland squad in their Carton House base last week ahead of

the 6 Nations game with Italy.

He said: "I remember the first time I was in Limerick I said I would make use of the resources as much as I can and I've been trying to do it and meet as much people as I can and it's nice to spend time with the coaches in their environment and their preparations for a Test match.

"The way the set up works were very good in terms of a squad and the way they train. You can see why they can keep the ball for 40 phases and win with a drop kick. To put 50 points in a Test match you've got to do a lot of things well." concluded Van Graan.

SCHOOLBOY/GIRL FIXTURES

FIXTURES

Saturday February 17 SFAI, SKETCHERS NATIONAL CUPS ROUND OF 16 U-14, GOODSON CUP

Aisling Annacotty v Kilcullen 2.30 Annacotty AWP; R Broe

U-16, BARRY CUP

Fairview Rangers v Evergreen (Kilkenny) 2.30 Fairgreen; M Kiely
Regional United v Piltown 2.30 Piltown

U-11 RED GROUP

Limerick v Pike Rovers 1; 11.am Hogan Park; J. Reilly
Corbally United 1 v Mungret Regional 1; 11.am Athlunkard; B. Higgins
Lisnagry v Aisling Annacotty 1; 11.am Scanlon Park; F. O'Neill
Shelbourne v Regional United 1; 2.pm Shelbourne Park; P. O'Brien

U-11 BLUE GROUP

Granville Rangers v Caherdavin Celtic 1; 11.am Glenbrook; J. Curran
Regional United 2 v Corbally United 2; 11.am Dooradoyle; J. Galvin
Aisling Annacotty 2 v Fairview Rangers 1; 12.30 Newtown Park; A. Walsh
Janesboro v Geraldines; 11.am Pearse Stadium; D. Brosnan

U-11 GREEN GROUP

Bridge Celtic v Newport Town 1; 11.am Bridgetown; D. Downing
Coonagh United v Mungret Regional 2 11.am Coonagh; Martin Monaghan
Aisling Annacotty 3 v Carew Park; 12.30 Newtown Park; R. Broe

U-11 BROWN GROUP

Caherconlish v Caherdavin Celtic 2; 11.am Caherconlish; J. O'Halloran
Ballynanty Rovers v Granville Rangers 2; 11.am Shelbourne Park; J. Mulligan
Parkville v Aisling Annacotty 4; 11.am Knockalisheen; T. Mannion
Moyross United v Pike Rovers 2; 11.am Moyross; M. Kiely

U-11, WHITE GROUP

Corbally United 4 v Star Rovers; 12.30 Athlunkard; B. Higgins
Regional United 3 v Newport Town 2; 12.30 Dooradoyle; J. Galvin

HYNAN TRAVEL U-13 PREMIER LEAGUE

Shelbourne A v Fairview Rangers A 12.30 Shelbourne Park; J. Mulligan
Mungret Regional A v Corbally United A 11.am Mungret; A. Galvin
Limerick v Pike Rovers 12.3 Hogan Park; J. Reilly

U-13 DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Newport Town A v Caherdavin Celtic 11.am Newport; K. McNamara
Ballynanty Rovers v Parkville 12.3 Shelbourne Park; P. O'Brien
Bridge Celtic A v Regional United A 12.3 Bridgetown; D. Downing
Summerville Rovers v Carew Park 11.am Portland Park J. Clancy

U-13 DIVISION TWO LEAGUE

Fairview Rangers B v Lisnagry 11.am Fairgreen; Mike Monahan
Mungret Regional B v Janesboro 12.3 Mungret; A. Galvin
Corbally United B v Regional United B 12.3 Athlunkard; K McCormack
Geraldines v Shelbourne B 11.am Rathuard; L. Hughes

U-13 DIVISION THREE LEAGUE

Granville Rangers v Newport Town B 12.30 Glenbrook; J. Curran
Corbally United C v Regional United C 11.am Athlunkard; K McCormack

U-15 PREMIER LEAGUE

Summerville Rovers v Caherdavin Celtic 12.30 Portland Park; G. Clancy
Janesboro v Fairview Rangers A 12.30 Pearse Stadium; D. Brosnan
Aisling Annacotty A v Newport Town A 11.am Annacotty; A. Whelan

U-15 DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Mungret Regional B v Geraldines 12.30 Castlemungret; J. McNamara
Corbally United A v Aisling Annacotty B 2.pm Athlunkard; Martin Monaghan
Corbally United B v Aisling Annacotty C 2.pm Athlunkard; B. Higgins

Sunday February 18 SFAI SUBWAY, U-12, INTER LEAGUE

Limerick County v. LDSL 12.00 Charleville AWP

U-12, REPRESENTATIVE GAME

Limerick County, v. LDSL 1.30 Charleville AWP

Saturday February 24 U-10 RED GROUP

Aisling Annacotty 2 v Limerick; 11.am Newtown Park;
Coonagh United v Corbally United 1; 11.am Coonagh;
Aisling Annacotty 1 v Regional United 1; 12.30 Newtown Park;

U-10 BLUE GROUP

Lisnagry v Corbally United 2; 11.am Scanlon Park;
Regional United 2 v Mungret Regional 1; 11.am Dooradoyle;
Carew Park v Aisling Annacotty 3; 11.am Carew Park;
Caherdavin Celtic v Fairview Rangers; 11.am Greenhills;

U-10 GREEN GROUP

Newport Town 1; v Janesboro 11.am Newport
Ballynanty Rovers v Mungret Regional 2; 11.am Shelbourne Park;
Caherconlish v Newport Town 2; 11.am Caherconlish;

U-10 BROWN GROUP

Mungret Regional 3 v Bridge Celtic 11.am Mungret;
Corbally United 3 v Geraldines 11.am Athlunkard;
Lisnagry 2 v Moyross United 12.30 Scanlon Park;
Star Rovers v Aisling Annacotty 4; 11.am Lee Estate;
Aisling Annacotty 5 v Shelbourne 2; 2pm Newtown Park;

SHANNON ICES, U-12, PREMIER LEAGUE

Fairview Rangers A v Aisling Annacotty B 11.am Fairgreen;
Newport Town A v Caherdavin Celtic A 11.am Newport;
Limerick v Mungret Regional A 11.am Hogan Park;
Aisling Annacotty A v Regional United A 2pm Annacotty AWP;

U-12 DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Shelbourne A v Corbally United A; 11.am Shelbourne Park;
Summerville Rovers v Bridge Celtic A; 11.am Portland Park;
Granville Rangers v Lisnagry 11.am Glenbrook;

U-12, DIVISION TWO LEAGUE

Geraldines v Aisling Annacotty C 11.am Garryowen;
Fairview Rangers B v Ballynanty Rovers 12.30 Fairgreen;
Regional United B v Mungret Regional B 12.30 Dooradoyle;
Parkville v Carew Park 11.am Knockalisheen;

U-12, DIVISION THREE LEAGUE

Newport Town B v Corbally United B 12.30 Newport;
Caherconlish v Caherdavin Celtic B 12.30 Caherconlish;
Bridge Celtic B v Aisling Annacotty D 11.am Bridgetown;
Regional United C v Mungret Regional C 2pm Dooradoyle ;

HYNAN TRAVEL U-14 PREMIER LEAGUE

Caherdavin Celtic v Fairview Rangers A 12.30 Greenhills;
Aisling Annacotty A v Corbally United A 3.30 Annacotty AWP;
Newport Town A v Mungret Regional A 12.30 Newport;

U-14, DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Fairview Rangers B v Regional United B 2pm Fairgreen;
Shelbourne v Geraldines 12.30 Shelbourne Park;
Aisling Annacotty B v Corbally United B 11.am Kilonan;
Janesboro v Summerville Rovers 11.am Pearse Stadium;
Carew Park v Newport Town B 12.30 Carew Park;
Regional United C v Aisling Annacotty C 12.30 Dooradoyle AWP;

U-16, PREMIER LEAGUE

Regional United A v Corbally United A 2pm Dooradoyle AWP;
Mungret Regional v Caherdavin Celtic 11.am Castlemungret;

U-16, DIVISION ONE LEAGUE

Corbally United B v Newport Town 12.30 Athlunkard;
Aisling Annacotty C v Geraldines 12.30 Kilonan;

LDSL NOTES

With a large number of fixtures having been cancelled over the past number of weeks due to the severe bad weather, it has been decided by the committee that fixtures will be scheduled for Monday, 19 March, and a full schedule of fixtures will also be played over the Easter weekend.

IMPORTANT MEETING

A meeting with the FAI/SFAI steering committee on Calendar Season Football will be held with representatives of the Clubs on Monday, 19 February, 2018 at 7.30pm in Mungret Regional F.C Pavilion. It is of the utmost importance that all Schoolboy/Girl Clubs are represented at this meeting. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that their representatives attending the meeting have the appropriate questions they may wish to ask on the night pertaining to all aspects of Calendar Season Football scheduled to be introduced in 2020. This will be the one and only time Clubs will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the FAI/SFAI steering committee on this issue so your attendance is essential.

Live Sport on TV



Tom Morrissey, Limerick, in action against Johnny McCaffrey and James Madden, Dublin when the sides met in 2016. The two meet again on Saturday night, live on EirSport

WEDNESDAY

SOCCER

Champions League - Real Madrid v Paris St-G 7.45pm BT Sports
Champions League - Porto v Liverpool 7.45pm BT Sports

THURSDAY

SOCCER

Europa League - FC Astana v Sporting Lisbon 4pm BT Sports
Europa League - Ludogorets v AC Milan 6pm BT Sports
Europa League - Dortmund v Atalanta 6pm BT Sports
Europa League - Nice v Lokomotiv 6pm BT Sports
Europa League - Real Sociedad v Red Bull Salzburg
Europa League - Ostersunds FK v Arsenal 6pm BT Sports
Europa League - Celtic v Zenit St Petersburg 8pm BT Sports

GOLF

European Tour - NBO Omean Open 2018 6.30am Sky Sports
US Tour - Genesis Open 2018 7pm Sky Sports

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League - Hull Kingston Rovers vs Catalan Dragons 7.35pm Sky Sports

FRIDAY

SOCCER

FA Cup - Chelsea v Hull 8pm BT Sports

GOLF

European Tour - NBO Omean Open 2018 6.30am Sky Sports
US Tour - Genesis Open 2018 7pm Sky Sports

RUGBY UNION

Aviva Premiership - Sale Sharks vs Saracens 7.45pm BT Sport
Pro 14 - Connacht v Zebre 7.35pm TG4
Pro 14 - Ulster v Edinburgh 7.35pm BBCNI

SATURDAY

GOLF

European Tour - NBO Omean Open 2018 6.30am Sky Sports
US Tour - Genesis Open 2018 7pm Sky Sports

RUGBY UNION

Super Rugby - Stormers v Jaguares 1pm Sky Sports
Aviva Premiership - Leicester Tigers vs Harlequins 3pm BT Sports
Pro14 - Leinster v Scarlets 3.15pm Sky Sports
Super Rugby - Lions v Sharks 3.15pm Sky Sports
Pro 14 - Cardiff v Munster 5.30pm Sky Sports
Top 14 - Lyon vs Clermont 8pm Sky Sports

GAA

AHL - Limerick v Dublin 7pm EirSport
AHL - Tipperary v Wexford 7pm EirSport

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Young Munster's AIL win - 25 years on

Munsters' capture top prize in Irish club rugby

By **COLM KINSELLA**
 e-mail: ckinsella@limerickleader.ie
 Twitter: @ckSportLeader

THE ADVENT of the All-Ireland League at the start of the 1990s fundamentally changed the face of Irish club rugby.

Young Munster initially began life in Division 2, with Michael Benson's dramatic drop goal securing their place in the second tier after a play-off with Highfield in Cork.

Munsters' duly secured promotion to the top Division at the first time of asking, keen to show their Limerick, Cork and Dublin rivals that they were worthy of their place at the top table in the club game.

Following a season of consolidation in the top flight, Munsters' band of brothers were primed for an assault on the top prize in club rugby as the 1992-1993 campaign dawned.

Munsters' win over inaugural AIL winners Cork Constitution and the then unbeaten League leaders at Temple Hill is widely regarded as a hugely significant day in their march to ultimate AIL glory.

On a filthy wet and windy day, Munsters' trailed by four points deep in the final quarter, but were battering

away at the Con line.

However, a late try for the visitors changed the complexion of the game, the Greenfields side were now well placed to challenge for league honours.

Tony Grant's Young Munster side followed up on their win over Cork Con by downing Garryowen 13-6.

On the same afternoon Con crashed at home to St Mary's. Munsters and the Saints would meet in a winner take all fixture on the final day of the season in Dublin.

Well, not quite winner-take-all, a draw would do for St Mary's to lift the title. The game was moved from St Mary's Templeville Road ground to Lansdowne Road to cater for the enormous crowd wishing to see it.

In front of the largest attendance to ever watch a club game, 17,000, Munsters took the field.

They lost team captain Ger Clohessy to a niggling hamstring injury in the opening minutes. However, the Limerick side held their composure and led 6-3 when centre Francis Brosnihan was floored by a blow from St Mary's Kiwi number eight, Brent Pope.

Pope was duly sent off by match referee Dave McHugh. Despite Munsters' having a one-man advantage,



We did it: Former Ireland international Peter Clohessy celebrates victory over St Mary's, 25 years ago today. Below, the Limerick Leader of February 15 1993 marks the occasions with a headline of 'Beautiful Beautiful' the opening line to Young Munsters' fight song

the sides were tied 14-14, with six minutes remaining. Then referee McHugh awarded a penalty to the Greenfields side, 40 metres from goal, but into the wind.

Aidan O'Halloran struck the ball sweetly between the uprights and Munsters' were within touching distance of victory at 17-14. The final whistle sounded soon after and thousands of Young Munster supporters flooded onto

the field to acclaim their heroes. The ghost of 1928 when Young Munster were last crowned national champions by winning the Bateman Cup was finally laid to rest.

YOUNG MUNSTER: Ger McNamara; Niall McNamara, Noel O'Meara, Francis Brosnihan (Michael Benson), James McNamara; Aidan O'Halloran, Derek Tobin; John Fitzgerald, Mark Fitzgerald, Peter Clohessy, Peter Meehan, Ray Ryan, Ger Clohessy (Capt), (Derek Mullane 4), Declan Edwards, Ger Earls.



The Young Munster team celebrate their victory in the All-Ireland League Division 1 final on February 13 1993, 25 years ago today

LIMERICK LEADER
 The biggest-selling Mid-West newspaper
 ESTABLISHED 1889 15 FEBRUARY 1993 30p

BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL

Francis Brosnihan has a hairline fracture of his shoulderbone following an incident with the St Mary's No 8, Brent Pope, shortly before half-time. After consultation with the tough judge, referee Dave McHugh dismissed Pope from the field of play.

BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL

By MARTIN BYRNES

THE Pope is dead!
 Long live Francis Brosnihan!
 Limerick Leader today proudly salutes All Ireland League winners, Young Munster RFC, with an expanded sports section, plus a special centennial portrait for you to keep.

THEY will be further crowned by Ireland's Limerick Champion and in the weekend edition of Limerick Leader. And to salute the many thousands of Limerick people who travelled to support and to witness a historic day.

The team will celebrate the famous victory with a year of feasts this evening.

Major Quinn has presented a full civic reception at 7pm on page 2

Munsters in rail smash

By DENNIS PEARSON

MINDLESS vandals "out" to spoil Young Munster supporters' joy a social ball across the rail line at Ballinacorney, which the club cancelled 800 and stopped, without causing any real damage. Luckily, there was only a minor damage done, and we hope to get everything in Dublin in time for the match's "nightmare" finale of famed events. They brought their special night with 2,000 fans to the club for their 100th anniversary of Young Munster, the Limerick League champions.

"This evening was the 100th anniversary of the club's formation in 1888 and it is a great pleasure to see so many people here to celebrate with us."

There is page 2

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REA

O'CONNOR MURPHY

Munster & Connacht Auction

Auction Date: Wednesday 28th February
Venue: The Limerick Strand Hotel
Auction Time: 11.00am

To include properties in Limerick, Clare,
 Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Mayo, Galway,
 Donegal, Roscommon

A SELECTION FROM OUR PROPERTIES ...

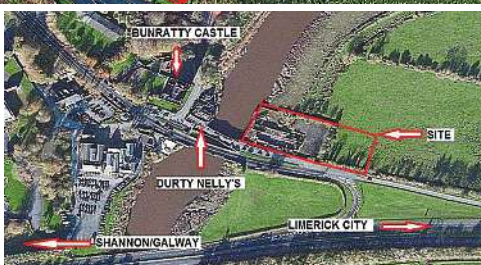
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Development Lands, Bunratty, Clare



BER Exempt

- Opportunity to acquire the Former Avoca Site circa 0.6HA (1.5 acres) of development land.
- Full planning permission (Ref: P12661) to redevelop the site, or restore the former original stone cut building which originally housed Avoca Handweavers.
- Zoned Commercial under the Clare Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023.
- Situated in Bunratty village adjacent to Durty Nelly's and Bunratty Castle with excellent accessibility to Limerick City Centre, Shannon and Ennis. Adjacent to the N18/ M18 dual carriageway, the primary route connecting Limerick and Galway.



Agent: **REA O'Connor Murphy** 061 279300

AMV €550,000 + VAT if applicable

9 Glentworth Street, Limerick



- City centre commercial investment opportunity.
- Four storey over basement mid terrace period building extending to circa 300 sq.m (3,230 sq.ft).
- Superb location off the northern end of O'Connell Street in Limerick city set in close proximity to the city's Georgian Quarter.
- Independent access to basement via Glentworth Street.
- Fully let producing a passing rent of €19,200 p.a.
- Tenant not Affected.

Agent: **REA O'Connor Murphy** 061 279300

AMV €240,000 + VAT if applicable

13 Old Windmill Court, Limerick City



BER B3
 Appealing 2 bed city centre apartment, secure & well maintained complex, strong rental return

Agent: **REA O'Connor Murphy** 061 279300

AMV €105,000

6 Chestnut Gardens, Newcastlewest, Limerick



BER C3
 Spacious 3 bed duplex complex, centrally located within the town of Newcastlewest, good rental potential

Agent: **REA O'Connor Murphy** 061 279300

AMV €79,000

34 Carrig Dubh, Ennis, Clare



BER D1
 Appealing 4 bed semi detached house, bright and spacious living accommodation, close to Ennis town, ideal family home
 Agent: **REA Paddy Browne** 065 6841755

AMV €195,000

24 The Ave., Ard Patrick, Ladyswell, Cork



BER D2
 Attractive 3 bed mid terrace townhouse, walking distance of Blackpool Retail Park & Cork City
 Agent: **REA O'Donoghue & Clarke** 021 4251010

AMV €170,000

7 Hillcrest Drive, Hollyhill, Cork



BER E2
 Well located 3 bed semi detached house, popular residential estate, local amenities within walking distance
 Agent: **REA O'Donoghue & Clarke** 021 4251010

AMV €170,000

Cliveragh, Listowel, Kerry



BER E1
 Semi-detached three bed cottage located on the outskirts of Listowel town centre, extending c. 86 sq.m
 Agent: **REA Norths** 066 7122699

AMV €45,000

Carrigeen, Templemichael, Youghal, Cork



BER G
 3 bed bungalow on c.1.25 acre site, set within the Blackwater Valley, 10km of Youghal & 7km from N25

Agent: **REA Spratt** 058 42211

AMV €60,000

Roherabeg, Shannonbridge, Offaly



BER G
 Spacious 4 bed detached property standing on a mature site, located on the outskirts of Shannonbridge

Agent: **REA Hynes** 090 6473838

AMV €140,000

Buckhill, Fairymount, Castlerea, Roscommon



BER G
 Quaint 1 bedroom cottage extending to c. 62 sq.m, located c.13km from Frenchpark, easy access to N5, N17 & N61

Agent: **REA Seamus Carthy** 090 6630001

AMV €27,000

14 Walsh's Terrace, Woodquay, Galway



Tenant not Affected
 BER G
 End of terrace 3/4 bed house with commercial unit to rear operating as car wash facility, passing rent €25,000 p/a (FPP assumed)

Agent: **REA McGreal Burke** 091 395300

AMV €420,000